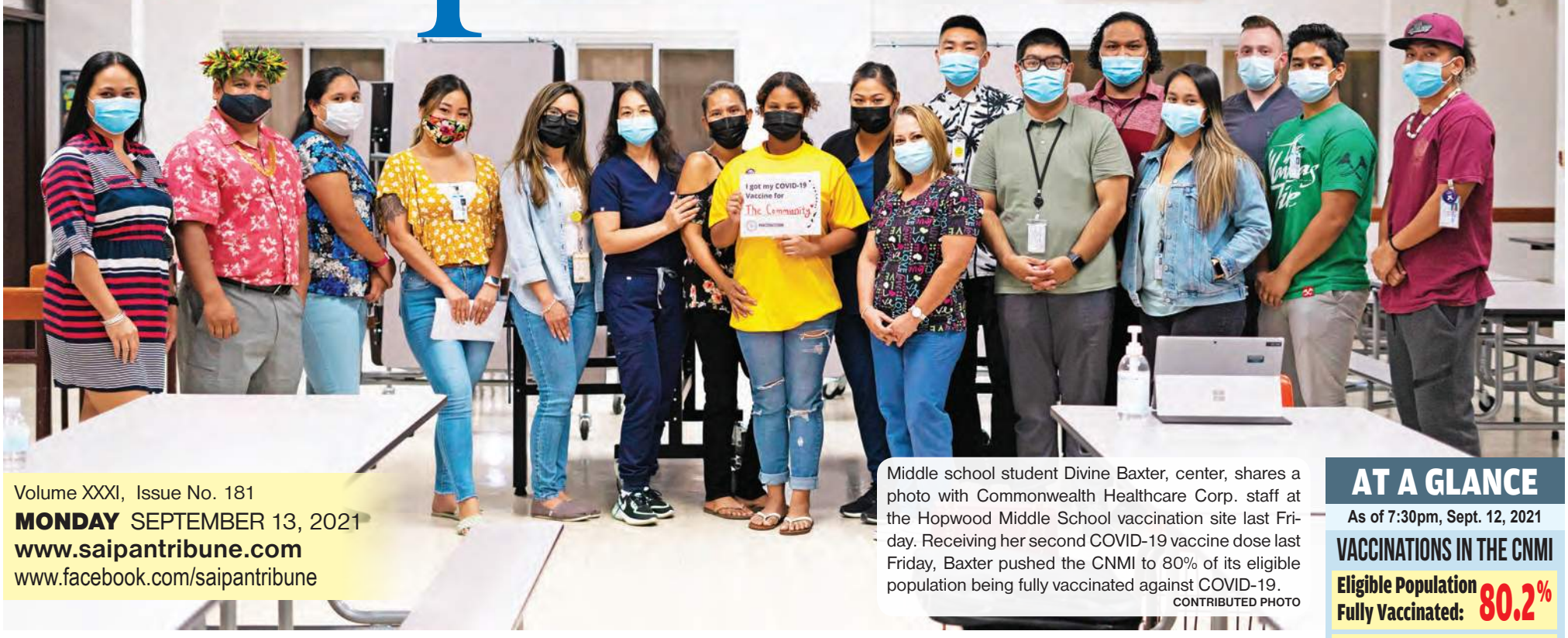
Hafa Adai!

Bookings increasing for TRIP program with Korea. PAGE 5

Travelers from Guam, 8 others barred from Philippine entry. PAGE 6

$1

Saipan Tribune



Middle school student Divine Baxter, center, shares a photo with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. staff at the Hopwood Middle School vaccination site last Friday. Receiving her second COVID-19 vaccine dose last Friday, Baxter pushed the CNMI to 80% of its eligible population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
www.saipantribune.com
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CNMI reaches 80% vaccinations

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Middle school student Divine Baxter received her second vaccine dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the Hopwood Middle School vaccination site last Friday afternoon, pushing the CNMI to its goal of having at least 80% of its eligible population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Eligible population means those who are 12 years old and older.

See 80% on Page 4

CNMI's total cases now at 251

» In Guam: 5 more COVID-related deaths over the weekend; 76 hospitalized

By JOSHUA SANTOS
JOSHUA_SANTOS@SAIPANTRIBUNE.COM

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. reported over the weekend that two more travelers tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's total to 251. In Guam, the Joint Information Center announced on Sept. 9 the island's 155th

See CASES on Page 4

CNMI expects influx of tourists this month

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority anticipates over 600 tourists this month, with bookings to the CNMI surpassing the 600 mark just a week into September.

During the MVA's monthly

See TOURISTS on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

➤ Bookings increasing for TRIP program with Korea. PAGE 5

IPI faces possible entry of default in *Grand Mariana* suit

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International LLC and its parent company, IPI Holdings Ltd., faces a possible entry of default in the lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice pertaining to the over $1 million costs incurred for the removal of the *Grand Mariana* yacht back in 2018.

The DOJ filed its request with the U.S District Court

See IPI on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:30pm, Sept. 12, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated:	80.2%
Days since last community transmission	172

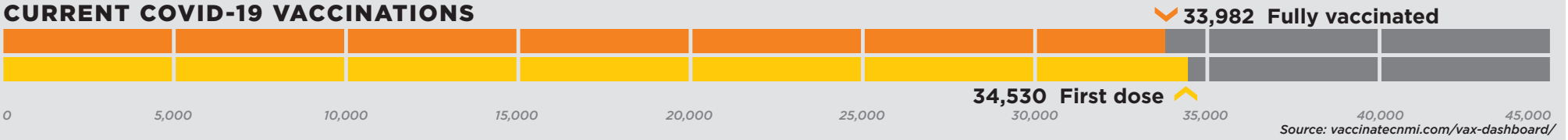
Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	29,717
Fully Vaccinated:	28,869
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,813
Fully Vaccinated:	4,337
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	776

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	12,294	85	12,379
Recovered	9,290	155	9,445
Active	2,691	85	2,776
Deaths	155	4	159

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	249	2	251
Traced via Travel Screening	212	2	214
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

LOCAL
The CNMI commemorates the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

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LOCAL
Caravan of Food, Saipan Community School, and Riya Nathrani are this year's Green Gala honorees.

PAGE 7

LOCAL
United Airlines has expanded its Guam-Manila service to daily from five-times weekly.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Torres says having tourists from Australia would be a bonus

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Having tourists from Australia under a Travel Bubble program would be a "bonus" for the CNMI and would boost efforts to diversify the Commonwealth's tourism market, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres Friday.

Asked during a radio press briefing about Marianas Pacific's plan to create Saipan-Australia flights, Torres said he supports a Travel Bubble program between the CNMI and Australia and that he hopes the start-up airline, Marianas Pacific, is able to move forward with its goals.

Torres

The governor said he knows that the Marianas Visitors Authority supports the Saipan-Australia route and that different entities have supported such a business model.

"I hope we can do this sooner than later. This is a great opportunity for us, while we take care of the transformation of our tourist sites," he said.

Torres said the CNMI must do what it needs to do to make the CNMI a great destination. "And, of course, our goal is to turn CNMI into a word-class destination," he said.

The governor pointed out that tourism is the CNMI's only revenue-generating industry right now and, without tourists, the CNMI does not have an economy.

Throughout its history, the CNMI has had three major tourist destinations—Japan, South Korea and China—with small numbers of tourists from Russia and some from other destination. Having visitors Australia, the governor said, would be an opportunity for the CNMI and MVA and an opportunity for the entire CNMI to diversity its tourism market.

He said the more destinations there are, the better for the CNMI because when one destination has an economic downturn or issues, the other destinations will carry the CNMI through.

"So with the pandemic, Australia is looking at the CNMI as an opportunity because we are one of the safest places on Earth. We have strict protocols. That's the reason why we are safe," the governor said.

The MVA board recently voted to establish an Australian Travel Bubble ad-hoc committee—a temporary committee designed specifically to assist in the launch of the Australian Travel Bubble in the CNMI.

Marianas Pacific aims to bring in 140,000 passengers in its first year of operation.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

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DCCA Division of Youth Services
Family & Youth Enhancement Program

AGES 5-12 YEARS OLD:
Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
from 2:00pm to 4:30pm

AGES 13-17 YEARS OLD:
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from 5:00PM to 7:30PM

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or aolopai@dys.gov.mp

For more information, Call 237-1015/16/17/18/19 or stop by the Kagman Community Center
Monday to Friday, 7:30AM to 4:30PM, except holidays.

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-AMENDED-
NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, September 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in the Departure Terminal at the Tinian International Airport, on Tinian. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (June 04, 2021 and August 10, 2021)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. CORRESPONDENCES

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
1. Financial Affairs Committee
2. Airport Facilities Committee
3. Seaport Facilities Committee
4. Personnel Affairs Committee

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

VI. OLD BUSINESS:
1. Tinian Shipping
2. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Airport Lease

VII. NEW BUSINESS:
1. Airport and Seaport Rent Relief
2. Supplemental Budget Request: Safety Management Systems Program Implementation
3. Supplemental Budget Request: ARFF Training Facility Professional Services Agreement Amendment No. 2
4. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Airport Parking Lot Expansion Construction Management Services
5. Air Carrier Incentive Program
6. Accounts Receivable
7. Car Rental Concession (Saipan)- CRS-2021-01
   a. Determination of Scope
   b. Procurement Method
   c. Evaluation Plan
8. Car Rental Concession (Rota)- CRR-2021-01
   a. Determination of Scope
   b. Procurement Method
   c. Evaluation Plan
9. Contract Renewal: Deputy Director
10. Contract Renewal: Tinian Ports Manager
11. Position Description-Change of Title only (BHS)
12. Request to Replace and Advertise-Custodial I (3 vacancies)- Saipan
13. Request to Replace and Advertise-Equipment Operator (1 vacancy) Operations- Saipan
14. Request to Replace and Advertise-ARFF Trainee (2 vacancies) ARFF- Saipan
15. Request to Replace and Advertise-Maintenance/Custodial I (2 vacancies)- Rota
16. Request to Replace and Advertise-Ports Police/ARFF I (1 vacancy)- Tinian
17. Mental Health Leave Benefit

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
• Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation

IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

X. ADJOURNMENT

Written testimony on the agenda items may be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@pticom.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Chairwoman, Board of Directorss

September 10, 2021

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Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated center, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and TanHoldings officials led by chief executive officer Jerry Tan, seated fourth left, pose for a photo with representatives of groups honored during the proclamation signing declaring September as the Field of Heroes: We Will Never Forget Month last Friday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. The proclamation was made to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Proclamation signing, motorcade for 20th anniversary of Sept. 11 attacks

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI commemorated the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that took place on Sept. 11, 2001, with a proclamation signing last Friday and a motorcade on Saturday.

Present at the proclamation signing last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room was Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, TanHoldings chief executive officer Jerry Tan and other TanHoldings officials, and representatives of groups that were honored last Sept. 11, 2021.

The proclamation last Friday recognized Sept. 11, 2001, as a day "that profoundly affected us all" and marked the 20th anniversary of the attacks as a day of prayer and reflection for the many lives lost. The proclamation also praised the firefighters, police officers, and first responders as well as the ordinary citizens and volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to the recovery efforts, and also recognized the military and its veterans who continue to serve and protect the U.S. from terrorism.

"The courage, heroism, and resilience Americans displayed on 9/11 are perpetual reminders of the spirit of our country. Real-life heroes sprang into action in the face of great danger to save their fellow Americans. Twenty years later, we reflect on the events of that day and recommit ourselves to being brave in service of our country and for defending our freedom," reads part of the proclamation.

As part of the Field of Heroes commemoration, hundreds of American flags that have been dedicated to specific individuals were erected at the American Memorial Park grounds.

On Saturday morning, a 30-car motorcade took place, with a route that began at the American Memorial Park, made its way to the Saipan International Airport, and circled back to AMP. The Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, the American Red Cross, IT&E, and members of the community took part in the commemorative motorcade. In line with current COVID-19 safety guidelines, the decision was made to hold a motorcade this year. In normal times, a "We Will Never Forget" Tribute Ceremony would have taken place.

"Campus Collaboration" at NMTI today

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute will be holding a "Campus Collaboration" today, Sept. 13, from 2 to 5pm, at its Lower Base facility. Students, faculty, and volunteers will work together on several beautification projects, and will be treated to food prepared by NMTI's culinary students during a student mixer that will take place right after the event.

In an interview with student activities coordinator and culinary instructor Ben Babauta Jr. on Thursday, he said the goal is to provide hands-on experience for NMTI's students as well as to foster connections between the school's various classes. Babauta expects a turnout of around 50 people at the event, with Kagman High School's Class of 2011 volunteering today.

"What we're trying to do is get our students involved, so that they feel that they're part of the school and not just taking classes. We want them to have some hands-on experience, as well as volunteer work and good leadership skills, and to demonstrate teamwork throughout the whole event," said Babauta.

Those participating in the "Campus Collaboration" will work on beautifying NMTI's parking lot, painting a mural to make a wall look like an aquarium, and improving a portion of a veranda at NMTI's Lower Base facility.

Those interested in volunteering or learning more about the event can call NMTI at 235-6684 or 323-6600. ***(Joshua Santos)***

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CITING RAPID SPREAD OF DELTA VARIANT IN GUAM

Torres urges PSS, private schools to mandate vaccinating teachers, staff, eligible students

» PSS, private schools urged to develop contingency plan for temporary suspension of in-person learning in the event of COVID-19 community spread

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing the rapid spread of the delta variant of the COVID-19 virus in Guam in the past few days, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has requested the Public School System and private schools to consider mandating vaccinations for all teachers, employees, and eligible students.

In a letter last week to Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini and Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Torres also asked that the PSS to reconsider the current protocols for classes.

The governor encouraged PSS and private schools to develop a contingency plan for transitioning to virtual/remote learning and temporary suspension of in-person learning, should a community spread of the COVID-19 virus occur.

He said the occurrence of the delta variant has been increasingly prevalent in the region and that it is spreading rapidly across Guam, with hundreds of new cases over the course of just a few days.

Torres noted the uptick in the number of positive COVID-19 cases among arriving passengers and this has included individuals carrying the delta variant.

He said there is much that they do not yet know about this new variant but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has advised that it is much more easily transferable.

The governor said they are also seeing increased numbers of people across the country admitted to hospitals with more serious COVID-19 symptoms.

While there is much they still do not know about the delta variant, Torres said what is known is that vaccinated individuals are less likely to suffer the more severe health symptoms that have been associated with the COVID-19 virus.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Official statement of Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada

While our goal is to resume in-person learning on all levels, the Public School System has been aggressive with its vaccination drive, highly encouraging our 12-year-old students to get vaccinated.

The Public School System believes vaccinated public school community is both essential and critical to the overall health and wellbeing of our Commonwealth.

Over the past 16 months since the COVID-19 pandemic affected the CNMI, our Public School System, with the support of CNMI Board of Education, implemented measures aimed to protect our students, staff/personnel, parents and the entire school community. These were implemented based on the COVID-19 prevention guidelines and preventive measures put in place by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

Because of these measures, the Public School System was able to continually afford educational opportunities to all of our elementary, middle, and high school students.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

80%

From Page 1

In a statement from the Office of the Governor announcing the milestone, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres praised the work of the COVID-19 Task Force led by its chairman, Warren Villagomez, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. led by chief executive officer Esther Muña, and the CNMI's doctors, nurses, and first responders.

"The decisions we made were not easy, but they have always been to keep everyone on our islands safe from this deadly disease. To our first responders, thank you. …Your dedication to our goal is why we got here together," Torres said.

"And to our community, thank you for your patience, for your cooperation, for believing in our administration, and for following the directives and quarantine protocols. We are glad to see our people healthy, and for that, we remain blessed to be living in one of the safest places in the world. The work is not done, and we must keep our guard up to protect each other," he added.

Torres also recognized the vaccination campaign Road to 80 for its efforts in motivating the community to get vaccinated. The Office of the Governor statement said the government allocated $100,000 to the campaign to encourage everyone in our community to get vaccinated for a chance to win prizes and incentives.

Muña Friday echoed Torres' sentiments and also spoke on social media of the importance of getting vaccinated for the sake of those unable to receive a vaccine.

"Fully vaccinating 80% of our eligible population is a huge feat. It is a community effort that we should be proud of—protecting ourselves and our loved ones, especially those who are not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccines. We have been advocating for vaccine administration and we will continue to accelerate our efforts in vaccinating the community," she said.

She stated in earlier interviews, though, that, even if the CNMI achieves 80%, it will still maintain its current health protocols since the pandemic is not over yet and the spread of COVID-19 variants is still rampant.

The World Health Organization advises continued caution even if the 80% target is reached. According to the WHO website, the medical community is still learning about immunity to COVID-19 and, "until we better understand COVID-19 immunity, it will not be possible to know how much of a population is immune and how long that immunity last for, let alone make future predictions."

WHO said the percentage of people who need to be immune in order to achieve herd immunity varies with each disease. "For example, herd immunity against measles requires about 95% of a population to be vaccinated. The remaining 5% will be protected by the fact that measles will not spread among those who are vaccinated. For polio, the threshold is about 80%."

TOURISTS

From Page 1

board meeting last Thursday, Ivan Quichocho, MVA board member and TRIP South Korea chair, said MVA's goal was to bring in about 686 tourists under the South Korean Travel Bubble for the month of September. However, as of last Thursday, MVA travel agent partners in South Korea have already confirmed about 650 bookings.

"September was forecasted by both carriers and agents to be at around 686. If I'm not wrong, and as of today, the bookings for the September trip passengers is sitting at 650 to 652. So we're just off and we're only considering sales from Sept. 1 through 8. I do anticipate we will be well beyond that forecast within the week. The agents have been aggressively selling and pushing this Travel Bubble," he said.

Quichocho said the high volume in bookings is thanks to the fact that the CNMI is the only destination with a Travel Bubble in place for South Korea.

"The CNMI is the only Travel Bubble established with South Korea. Thanks to the administration, COVID-19 Task Force, and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., all their wonderful work has helped establish the foundation that this program is based on," he said.

Meanwhile, for the month of October, 483 bookings have been confirmed, Quichocho said.

"Currently, as of Sept. 8, October is sitting at 483 bookings. The projection is 853 or 850 so given that we're only at Sept. 8, and the daily bookings are at a pace of a minimum of 100 bookings per day, I anticipate that that October number that we projected will be achieved, if not exceeded," he said.

Quichocho added that bookings from South Korea to the CNMI have been at a consistent pace with a minimum of 100 bookings daily.

"Just to give you an idea on the pace of bookings, starting Aug. 31 for September through the end of November, which is the period we're selling, we picked up 113 bookings on the first day alone. On Sept. 1, we picked up 48 bookings, the second 75 bookings, the third 109 bookings, the sixth 119, and Sept. 7, we issued 325 bookings in one day. For Sept. 8, there was 107 bookings. So the pace seems to be pretty consistent," he said.

With the influx of tourists in the coming months, MVA is confident that roughly 384 tourism industry workers will be back to work in time for the holidays.

CASES

From Page 1

COVID-19-related death, followed by four more announced on Sept. 10

In the CNMI, CHCC said the two new cases were identified by travel screening and confirmed positive through arrival testing on Sep. 9 and Sep. 11, respectively. The individuals are quarantined and are now being monitored, and CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for those in most immediate contact with the two individuals. CHCC also reported that there are currently no active hospitalizations due to COVID-19.

Guam's 155th COVID-19-related death was a 54-year-old vaccinated man with multiple underlying health conditions who tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital. The man was pronounced dead at GMH on Sept. 8.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero offered her condolences and said that mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is the best way to honor those who lost their lives to the virus. "[Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio and] I offer our thoughts and sincerest condolences to his family and friends as our island is beset with the devastating effects of the pandemic. A renewed commitment to keep each other safe and mitigate against the spread is the best way to pay tribute and honor each life lost to this deadly virus," said Leon Guerrero.

In a Sept. 10 release, JIC reported that four more COVID-19-related deaths occurred on Sept. 8 at the U.S. Naval Hospital. The deceased patients were:

■ A 64-year-old woman with unknown vaccination status and unknown underlying health conditions who was pronounced dead on arrival;

■ A 57-year-old man with unknown vaccination status and unknown underlying health conditions;

■ An adult female whose age was unspecified with unknown vaccination status and unknown underlying health conditions who was pronounced dead on arrival; and

■ An adult male whose age was unspecified with unknown vaccination status and unknown underlying health conditions who was pronounced dead on arrival.

According to the JIC, the deceased have been transferred to the chief medical examiner's office, and additional information about their cases will be provided once made available by the CME.

Leon Guerrero offered her condolences and urged the Guam community to take every precaution against COVID-19. "Tonight, we are saddened by losing more brothers and sisters from our island community. As [Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio and] I join the island in mourning, we must be reminded to take even the smallest of precautions to safeguard ourselves and all those we cherish, and we must all take these precautions together," she said.

The JIC also reported that 76 individuals are currently hospitalized in Guam for COVID-19, 41 of them unvaccinated.

IPI

From Page 1

for the NMI to issue an entry of default against IPI and IPIH in the suit they filed back in May last week.

USDOJ Civil and Torts division attorney Frank Anders told the court that IPI and IPI Holdings have failed to respond to the complaint within the required time.

Anders said the U.S. government has not granted IPI and IPI Holdings any formal or informal extensions of time to file a response to the complaint.

According to the lawsuit, the *Grand Mariana* was badly damaged after Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018 and the removal costs were incurred in responding to the potential threat of oil spill from the damaged yacht. The lawsuit sought to recover $1,391,917.18 from IPI for the *Grand Mariana* incident and removal action costs.

Besides IPI and IPIH, the DOJ also named Pride Keen Ltd. as a defendant in the complaint for liability under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 as registered owners of the *Grand Mariana*.

The complaint stated that the U.S. government, through the Field Operations Service Center, contracted various entities, including Global Diving and Salvage, Inc., to salvage and remove the *Grand Mariana*.

On April 14, 2020, the National Pollution Funds Center sent Notice of Potential Liability Letters to Pride Keen, IPI, and IPI Holdings advising them that the U.S. Coast Guard considered them responsible parties.

The National Pollution Funds Center demanded reimbursement for all of the outstanding removal costs and damage owed by the defendants, and on May 10, 2020, sent all defendants an invoice for $1,391,917.18.

Despite the demand, IPI, IPIH, and Pride Keen allegedly refused to reimburse the costs and damages.

Bookings increasing for TRIP program with Korea

With last month's decision of the Marianas Visitors Authority to extend the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan program with South Korea through December, travel agencies and airlines are seeing a gradual uptick in bookings in coming months.

The program is an investment to help jumpstart tourism, the Marianas' primary economic driver. Since the launch of the TRIP program, over 1,000 bookings have been made, including an increase in bookings to Tinian and Rota. In addition, bookings have been for seven or more nights, much longer than the average four nights prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As the only destination with a travel bubble with South Korea, the Marianas has tremendous opportunity to capitalize on outbound travel demand in the country. Based on recent discussions with travel agents and airlines in Korea, we are very optimistic about the forecast of the TRIP program through December," said MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo. "With the additional time provided for the program, as well as a firm decision by the COVID-19 Task Force to continue the five-day quarantine for TRIP participants through December, our travel partners now have sufficient time and the necessary details to confidently develop and sell packages for the coming months to their customers. The TRIP program has helped businesses reopen and put more people back to work, steps that are needed to reboot the economy, especially now with the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance ending. We continue to aim for a slow but gradual recovery of the Korea market."

MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo said the MVA will continue to work closely with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and COVID-10 Task Force on all aspects of the program to help ensure community protection.

"We remain grateful to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and COVID-19 Task Force in setting policies that are keeping our community safe, and we acknowledge the hard work of our frontline workers and the continued cooperation of our community in support of those policies," said Iakopo. "In the long term, the Marianas will continue to benefit from this Tourism Resumption Investment Plan with stimulation of the economy through the revitalization of the tourism industry, travelers' confidence in travel to the Marianas regained, and increased overall destination exposure.

The MVA has also formed ad hoc committees to begin exploring the feasibility of extending the TRIP program to other markets, including Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, and the rest of Micronesia. ***(PR)***

NEWS BRIEFS

4.7-magnitude quake in Hagatna

At 2:07am on Sept. 12, 2021, a report of a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred 110 miles south-southwest of Hagatna, Guam. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. ***(PR)***

4.5-magnitude quake in Yigo

At 6:20am on Sept. 10, 2021, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred at Yigo Village, Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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-AMENDED-

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be Board Committee Meetings on Friday, September 17, 2021, beginning 9:00 a.m. in the Departure Terminal at the Tinian International Airport, on Tinian.

AGENDA

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (May 27, 2021 and August 10, 2021)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
1. Solar
2. Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. Airport Lease
3. CUC Power Plant 2 (Rota)

IV. New Business:
1. Off-site Car rentals
2. CPA Website
3. Car Rental Concession (Saipan)- CRS-2021-01
   a. Determination of Scope
   b. Procurement Method
   c. Evaluation Plan
4. Car Rental Concession (Rota)- CRR-2021-01
   a. Determination of Scope
   b. Procurement Method
   c. Evaluation Plan
5. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report

V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (May 27, 2021 and August 10, 2021)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business: None.
IV. New Business:
1. Contract Renewal: Deputy Director
2. Contract Renewal: Tinian Ports Manager
3. Position Description-Change of Title only (BHS)
4. Request to Replace and Advertise-Custodial I (3 vacancies)- Saipan
5. Request to Replace and Advertise-Equipment Operator (1 vacancy) Operations- Saipan
6. Request to Replace and Advertise-ARFF Trainee (2 vacancies) ARFF- Saipan
7. Request to Replace and Advertise-Maintenance/Custodial I (2 vacancies)- Rota
8. Request to Replace and Advertise-Ports Police/ARFF I (1 vacancy)- Tinian
9. Mental Health Leave Benefit
10. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report

V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (May 27, 2021 and August 10, 2021)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business:
1. Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc.
2. Tinian Shipping
3. Echo Dock

IV. New Business:
1. Industrial Drive Road
2. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report

V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (June 24, 2021 and August 10, 2021)
II. Public Comments
III. Old Business: None.
IV. New Business:
1. Airport and Seaport Rent Relief
2. Supplemental Budget Request: Safety Management Systems Program Implementation
3. Supplemental Budget Request: ARFF Training Facility Professional Services Agreement Amendment No. 2
4. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Airport Parking Lot Expansion Construction Management Services
5. Air Carrier Incentive Program
6. Accounts Receivable
7. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report

V. Executive Session (if needed)
VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Adjournment

Written testimony on the agenda items may be sent via email before the meeting to cpa.admin@pticom.com. Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Barrie C. Toves, Airport Facilities Chair
Ramon A. Tebuteb, Financial Affairs Chair
Pete P. Reyes, Seaport Facilities Chair
Joseph M. Diaz, Personnel Affairs Chair

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
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CORRECTED

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public landis described as Tract 21662 containing an area of approximately 44,350 square meters, more or less, situated in Garapan, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency.The lists of officers for Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency are Hitoshi Nakauchi,President, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Secretary/Treasurer and Nick Nishikawa, as General Manager.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Nick Nishikawa.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of operating a Hotel Resort Complex.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 40 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the JoetenDandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in ***Garapan, Saipan***.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, ***September 25, 2021*** at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIAN INTENSION PARA U MA'ATKILAI TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñihapara u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattida ni intirisao gi halum henerål pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na imfotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Tract 21662 ni konsisisti kåsi 44,350 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigigi hålum Garapan, iya Saipan. I kopian pättin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan i website gi www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee sa i Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency. I listan ufisiåt siha para i Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency si Hitoshi Nakauchi, Presidenti, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Sekritåriu/Tresuråru yan si Nick Nishikawa, komu Henerål Maniya.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginin manegosiuni as Siñot Nick Nishikawa.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu i kinalamtin Hotel Resort Complex.

I tema nu i maproponina kontråtan atkilon sa kuarenta (40) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi durântin teman kontråtan i` atkilon mapega gi putsientunu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i aplikao na putsientu nu i Business Gross Receipts gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan,Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iyaSongsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i Kings Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi ***Garapan, iya Saipan.***

vii. I Sekritårian Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguinprinoponi siha ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di ***September 25, 2021*** gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONG REEL MÁNGEMÁNGIL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap e attotoowowa rongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap loll Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóókka re mwuschel isiisilong kkapas, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Eyoor sángi Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw ebwe akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Tract 21662 ebwe bwáábwe 44,350 reel square meters, elapelóng áreeghus, iye e lo Arabwal, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u Mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Pommwol school atkkilóón nge Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency. List-al officers ngáli Saipan Portopia Hotel Corporation dba Hyatt Regency nge Hitoshi Nakauchi, President, Nonuhiko Ikemoto, Sekkretóóriyo/Treasurer me Nick Nishikawa, bwe General Manager.

iii. Pommwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. Nick Nishikawa.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl Hotel Resort Complex.

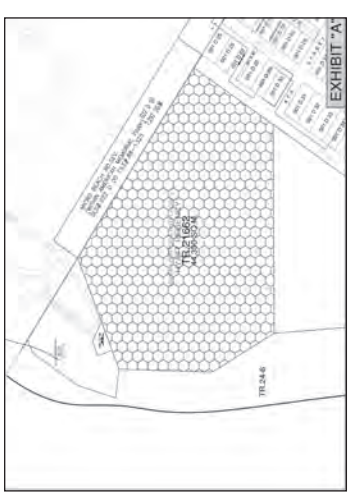
Pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóónol Faluweer Toulap nge fááigh ráágh.

Pommwol atkkilóónol ghal rágháhatol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw fengál me "applicable percentage of Business gross Receipts" loll mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh mereel Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, apilómwol Songsong, me Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommw iye re siiwelingáli atkkilóón iye e lo weiláng reel faluweer toulap me ***Garapan, Seipél.***

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap emmwelil bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angii ngáre pommwiye re siiweli sángi schóókka re mwuschel wool ngáre mmwalil ***September 25, 2021*** me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me Seipél, Luuta, ngáreTchiliyól.



Travelers from Guam, 8 others barred from Philippine entry

Travelers from nine countries, including Guam, are being temporarily barred from entering the Philippines starting yesterday, Sept. 12.

The Philippine Bureau of Immigration announced Saturday the temporary ban on the entry of passengers coming from nine countries: Azerbaijan, Guadeloupe, Guam, Israel, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Saint Lucia, and Switzerland.

The travel ban is in effect for seven days, or until Sept. 18, 2021.

Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said in an advisory that, as recommended by the country's Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases, passengers coming from, or who have been in these nine countries within the last 14 days prior to their arrival to the Philippines, shall temporarily be denied entry.

The ban does not include those who are merely transiting through these countries and are only staying within the airport for a layover. Also, passengers already in transit from any of the nine countries who will arrive before the implementation of the travel ban may be allowed to enter, subject to existing policies of the Bureau of Quarantine.

Filipinos arriving from countries under the nine countries under government or nongovernment repatriation programs or *bayanihan* flights may be allowed entry, but shall undergo a strict 14-day facility-based quarantine and be required to take a reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction test that will be monitored by the BOQ.

For Filipinos in the CNMI who are going to Manila via United Airlines, they will have a layover in Guam but will still be allowed to enter Manila, based on the Bureau of Immigration order. It was not immediately learned if United Airlines will be making changes to its Manila-Guam route, considering that they had just revived their daily flights to Manila. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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RFP21 – RED005

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 25, 2021

"MANAGAHA ISLAND MASTER CONCESSION OPERATOR"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Lands (DPL), are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms interested in being the Exclusive Master Concession Operator for service and activities on or relating to Managaha Island.

The RFP instruction and information package (RFP Packet) is available online at www.dpl.gov.mp. Interested proposers may request an RFP Packet by email referenced **"RFP21-RED005 MANAGAHA CONCESSION".**

A pre-proposal tour of the island for all interested parties will be held on Managaha Island on **October 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** Additional site visits may be requested through DPL with a minimal fee. Interested parties must arrange their own transportation to and from the island.

Questions from proposing firms regarding the premises and the contents of the RFP Packet must be received, **no later than 4:00 pm on October 8, 2021ChST** and must be submitted in writing via mail, email or facsimile to Mr. Sixto K. Igisomar, Secretary, DPL at the following address:

Department of Public Lands
2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building
P.O. Box 500380
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone number(s): (670) 234-3751/52/53
Facsimile number: (670) 234-3755
Email: sixto.igisomar@dpl.gov.mp or dpl@dpl.gov.mp

Sealed proposals must be marked **"RFP21-RED005 MANAGAHA CONCESSION"**. One (1) original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the DPL at its address above **no later than 4:00pm ChST, on October 25, 2021. A non-refundable Administrative Processing Fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500.00)** is required upon submission of a proposal and payment must be made through cash or check payable to: Department of Public Lands.

By submitting a proposal, the interested firm agrees to enter into a concession agreement. DPL reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal, if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of public land beneficiaries. All costs associated with preparing a proposal are entirely the responsibility of proposers. All proposals shall become the sole property of DPL.

/s/ SIXTO K. IGISOMAR, DPL Secretary

Green Gala heralds Nathrani, Caravan of Food, Saipan Community School

Caravan of Foods' Salam and Jihan Younis are presented with the Green Business of the Year award at last Friday's Green Gala at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao. With them are MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero, MINA's board of directors, Miss Marianas Savannah Delos Santos, and Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Terlaje. IVA MAURIN

Green Business of the Year

With a long-held belief that an eco-conscious business is a healthy business, Caravan of Food won as Green Business of the Year. From the beginning of its operations, Caravan has embraced environment-friendly practices, including the elimination of straws and plastic bags, reduction in oil use, and the use of totally-compostable packaging materials.

Their patrons also get to have a taste of fresh produce, locally grown at their farm in Dandan, a member of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

Caravan's Salam and Jihan Younis expressed appreciation to MINA for honoring businesses that do environmental initiatives, and to their patrons, who they encourage to also adopt eco-friendly practices.

The Younis couple also extended an invitation to other businesses to collaborate with them, to work with the government to incentivize plastic-free and environmentally-friendly businesses.

Environmental Heroes Award

With a dedication to the environment echoed though its students, Saipan Community School bagged this year's Environmental Heroes Award.

Saipan Community School teaches environmental stewardship through its Eco-Avenger program, where teachers and staff do eco-friendly activities with students through projects like recycling programs, installation and maintenance of trash receptacles around and even outside the campus, tree plantings, and beach cleanups.

The school was nominated by a parent of a student, who also has been an Eco-Avenger since first grade, where she learned how to recycle, and her parents were encouraged to drop recyclable items that can be up-cycled to use for class projects, or take it to the transfer facility.

"We're working to take care of the blessings that God's given us with this earth and they [students and staff] are' doing an amazing job," SCS principal Amanda Dunn said in an interview.

Dunn added that through MINA, the Eco-Avengers were able to plant trees, and that they were able to start a sustainable beach clean-up along Susupe Beach, where they put trash cans out, and go with the students, and collect trash from the beach area once a week.

Saipan Community School principal Amanda Dunn receives the award for Environmental Heroes Award on behalf of the Saipan Community School, during Friday's Green Gala at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao. She is joined by MINA officials, Miss Marianas Savannah Delos Santos, and Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Terlaje. IVA MAURIN

Dr. Riya Nathrani receives the award as this year's Environmental Champion during last Friday's Green Gala at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao. She is joined by MINA officials, Miss Marianas Savannah Delos Santos, and Miss Northern Marianas Earth Maria Terlaje. IVA MAURIN

Environmental Champion Award

For her extraordinary commitment to conservation, Hopwood Middle School teacher Dr. Riya Nathrani was named Environmental Champion awardee for this year.

Nathrani bested other nominees with her environmental efforts built "from the ground up"—beginning with debris removal, planting trees along the perimeters of her workplace, and overcoming the challenges into keeping the trees viable.

With the assistance of MINA and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Nathrani developed a rainwater catchment system with the new tree saplings and then expanded this system to include a fruit and vegetable garden in the premises. Now, the rainwater system is being used in agriculture class, for the students to water the plants.

In her interview, Nathrani said that she may have received the award, but it is really her students who work hard to bring the projects to life. "My main goal, through these activities, and of course with MINA's programs, is to inspire my students to be aware of our natural resources and conserve them and get them interested in careers in the environment because we really need more of that in our island."

Nathrani also encourages everyone in the community who, like her, are aspiring to champion the environment, to look out for opportunities. "We have so many environmental organizations on island that provide programs and ways to get involved, whether it's planting a tree with the MINA projects or being a part of the BECQ beach cleanups. I think if everybody does a small part, we can do so much for our island."

By IVA MAURIN
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI heralded three climate change champions—Caravan of Food, Saipan Community School, and Riya Nathrani—at this year's Green Gala, organized by the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance last Friday, Sept. 10, at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

For this year's green awards, they focused on individuals, green businesses, and schools that "really take the issue of climate change seriously" and have incorporated that ethic into their daily lives and shared it with the community, said MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero in a later interview.

"We encourage everybody to continue what they can do," Guerrero said. "We're fortunate here in the CNMI because we are a small community and we all support each other. Even a small little initiative to help combat climate change [that] started here goes to the broader community, and then goes to the world."

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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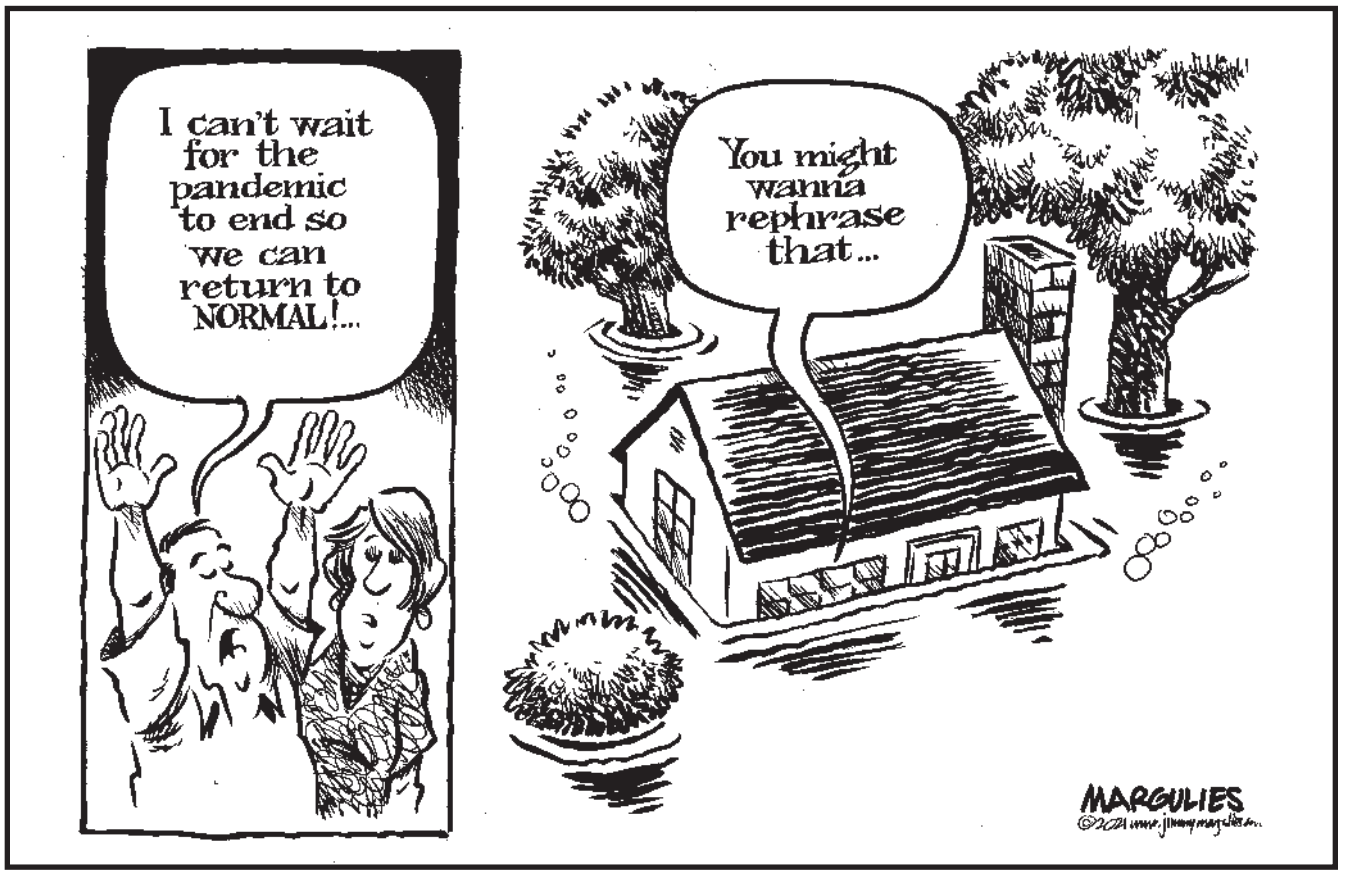

EDITORIAL

Biden's smart COVID plan depends on enforcement

On Thursday, President Joe Biden took bold new steps to defeat the resurgent pandemic—by strengthening the COVID vaccine mandate for federal employees and contractors, pushing big private companies to impose mandates of their own, and announcing a series of other initiatives. He was right to act, and these measures deserve wide support.

It's good that more than 62% of Americans 12 and older are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, but tens of millions are still vulnerable. If infected, they're at risk of severe illness. Cases, hospitalizations and deaths have all risen in recent weeks. The pandemic is not yet under control, even though the best means of bringing it under control—vaccination—is readily at hand.

The country needed Biden to take the initiative. Now that he has, all Americans should do their part to conquer this scourge.

The president announced that some 4 million federal workers will soon have to be vaccinated or face disciplinary action. It remains to be seen whether the sanctions will include termination—but they should, where workers refuse vaccination without a good medical or religious reason. (Some private firms have made vaccination a condition of employment, and there's no reason why the federal government should treat its employees differently.) In a move extending to some 80 million people, Biden added that U.S. companies with at least 100 workers will be told to insist on shots or weekly COVID-19 testing. If they don't comply, they'll face fines. The new measures include work to provide booster shots to strengthen immunity; plans to keep schools open and safe; efforts to increase testing and use of masks; new economic supports, especially for small businesses; and further efforts to help hospitals and improve treatments.

Hospitals and colleges across the country, as well as a large swath of corporate America, have already moved to adopt vaccine mandates. This approach has worked, pushing many more people to get their shots.

Critics of mandates can be expected to push back. They say they should be free to do as they judge best, deciding for themselves whether to take their chances with COVID. But the consequences of their decisions aren't confined to them. The safety of others is compromised. The longer COVID is allowed to circulate, the greater the pandemic's toll will be. Hospitals risk being overwhelmed, forcing them to ration care, including for those sick through no fault of their own. All the while, the coronavirus is left free to mutate.

Biden seems to have the support of federal workers' unions, including the American Federation of Government Employees, the largest—and that's encouraging. Many other national unions also support vaccine mandates, including the American Federation of Teachers and unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO

There's political resistance as well, of course, which is only to be expected in an America so bitterly divided into partisan

See BIDEN on Next Page

We are still at war, and the costs remain high for some

By ELIZABETH SHACKELFORD
Chicago Tribune

Elizabeth Shackelford is a senior fellow on U.S. foreign policy with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She was previously a U.S. diplomat and is author of The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

When President Joe Biden announced the end of America's 20-year war in Afghanistan, he also vowed that the fight against terrorism would continue, in Afghanistan and across the globe. For Americans, this may be reassuring. For civilians in at least seven countries where we are waging this war, the president's vow is not so much assuring as terrifying.

With America's weaponry and resources today, these wars, fought from a distance, are meant to be precise and low risk. And they may be for Americans. But the potential for mistakes and collateral damage is massive.

The United States has conducted more than 91,000 strikes in 20 years of the war on terror. Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Pakistan, Yemen and Libya have all been part of the conflict zone.

According to a new report by Airwars, a U.K.-based monitoring group, the number of civilians killed directly by U.S. airstrikes in the past 20 years falls somewhere between 22,000 and 48,000. Even the low end of this estimate is disturbing.

For most Americans, this air war is invisible. But we got a glimpse of it on Aug. 29, when a U.S. drone strike in Kabul killed 10 civilians, including seven children. The U.S. military insists it was a "righteous strike" on a car laden with explosives on its way to Kabul's airport. This may be true, but the evidence so far is inconclusive. The current official assessment is "possible to probable" that the strike really did avert an attack.

The Pentagon has admitted that civilians may have died but places blame for those deaths on the supposed explosives in the car, not the missile that struck it. We may never know whether the strike averted a major attack.

But even if it did, it caused tremendous harm too. Seven children. A father. A fiance. A narrow neighborhood street. A small community blown to bits by a bomb from the sky. Try to imagine what that would do to your community. How understanding would you be if this happened to your family? What must the remaining family members think of America now? Who harmed them? Who is now their enemy?

Worse still is the fact that these victims have no recourse to justice. This happened in a war. The family won't get answers. At most, they might get condolence payments from the U.S. military. The Pentagon has recently overhauled the system to track and pay compensation, but it is still slow to admit errors, and those it acknowledges fall far short of what human rights groups track.

The Department of Defense has tracked and reported civilian casualties only since 2018, and how it tracks them is questionable, typically relying on the same internal records that led to the strike in the first place. Officials rarely visit strike sites or interview witnesses. Most innocent victims of our direct military action receive no resolution or acknowledgment at all.

The strike in Kabul happened while America was watching. Most strikes do not. Absent a reliable official accounting of civilian casualties caused by the U.S. military, it falls on civil society groups, international organizations and local communities to track. But many claims brought to the military are dismissed as "not credible" without further investigation, and many strikes hit remote areas that few outside observers can even reach to investigate.

With little to no U.S. presence on the ground in countries where our small wars continue, these deaths will be even less visible to Americans.

To understand the impact, take the harm caused by the 10 civilians killed in Kabul and multiply it several thousand times. This is what the wars we've waged do to other people. This is why many Afghans in rural areas view the departure of American forces and return of Taliban control as a return to peace.

This isn't just a tragic story of innocent people killed by war. Years of mounting civilian deaths, with little acknowledgment, apology or recourse, have directly undermined our efforts to fight terrorism. Instead, this ever-present aspect of the war on terror has helped create animosity against the United States and generated greater support for our enemies.

Military leaders like to talk about how our continued counterterrorism activities in countries across the globe are "low cost" and "light footprint." But low cost to whom? If it continues to be high cost to civilians, ultimately, it will cost the American people more too.

Requiring the Pentagon to report on civilian casualties was an important step, but if the military won't conduct meaningful and thorough investigations into civilian casualty claims, Congress should empower an independent body to do so instead. The long war may be over, but bombs will continue, and with them, casualties. Without an accurate assessment of damages, we can't accurately assess the impact of our fight against terrorism and whether it makes us safer.

We lost the war in Afghanistan. If we don't want to lose the war on terror too, the U.S. government must be more accountable for civilian casualties.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Remembering 9/11 20 years later

Editor's Note: Delegate Uifa'atali Amata released the following statement to commemorate the heroic stories and lost lives on Sept. 11, 2001, as last Saturday marked the 20th anniversary of the attacks.

By UIFA'ATALI AMATA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Uifa'atali Amata is the American Samoa delegate to the U.S. Congress.

Our nation will always remember Sept. 11th, and this year marks 20 years since the attacks that changed our country and revealed many heroes. Most people remember where they were when they first heard or saw the news. I was in Washington, D.C., and I remember the chaos of that emotional day, including taking hours to drive a few miles across town in traffic, and seeing the dark smoke against the sky from the nearby Pentagon. We knew the world had changed.

Sept. 11th will always be a day that causes us to think of the thousands who lost their lives, the grief of the families who miss their loved ones today, and the brave actions of those responding to save as many as possible. History will preserve the incredible bravery of the firefighters, police, first responders, and the passengers on Flight 93, and individual acts of kindness and selflessness in personal stories from those who were there. Today we say a special thank you to all the law enforcement, firefighters and first responders, knowing we rely on your professionalism in a time of crisis. Over these 20 years since, an entire generation has served in our armed forces, including many from American Samoa. We are so grateful to all our veterans and our service members. May God bless American Samoa and the United States with peace and freedom.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Politricking' failures

I don't think there is a single voter who can say "we the people haven't been tricked by these Republicans" over the past two decades and that applies multiple times to the present Torres administration. The funny part for me is they are still running the same old "politricking" plays that have kept them in power, treating those naive enough to believe their gaslighting shows they are putting on is real. But we the people and even businesses have literally been taxed with no end in sight when the CNMI needed and still does need new revenue sources. Now businesses are closing down from the high and impractical fees are being doubled at a time when it should be obvious we are still in a pandemic recovery mode with virtually no external input from tourism. I keep telling the powers-that-be the CNMI needs new, different and better tourist attractions if we are truly committed to a tourism industry. But instead of working to create these new attractions, the governor just continues with the gaslighting of his "politricking" ideas that have gotten us nowhere fast, like deer hunting in the N. Islands.

We have already spent millions on a gaslighting Tourism Bubble idea that was for one country when it should have been for all tourists as the CNMI must expand our tourism base—something we teach high schoolers about the dangers and pitfalls of "one-crop economies." But given that the governor can't come up with a viable reopening plan, here is the very simple solution to reopening our economy. I hope the House will even consider invoking something like this through a "reopening resolution for the people" to document proof for voters that they are trying but the governor isn't listening:

1.There is nothing wrong with giving spending vouchers to tourists but they should be for all tourists.

2. Stop paying airlines and allow the tourism demand to stimulate the supply of air-travel to the CNMI.

3. Require all tourists to show proof of vaccination that is verified in their country of origin before boarding a flight to the CNMI that is also authenticated once arriving

4. Start a fully open tourism industry promotion in all the possible tourists market countries on how the CNMI is COVID-free with legal cannabis!

5. Start the work to build or bring new tourist attractions for the CNMI like the search for a theme park investor, which will make the CNMI the premiere tourist destination for all of Micronesia. Build back better!

6. Start immediate reasonable promotions in Japan to lease the Mariana Resort to a Japanese investor to begin the process of bringing back our real primary tourist market that these "polictricking" Republicans want you to just forget and give up on.

7. We have two malls that need to be revived and we are even paying a yearly lease on La Fiesta. Either put a stage area and a roof over the Garapan mall or reopen the street and look for investors to reopen La Fiesta with a reasonable lease.

8. Find a viable use of the Inos Peace Park for tourists that hasn't been used for anything as it could be a "free public smoking zone" to promote our cannabis tourism.

9. Tie the Tagaman into an international bike race (e.g., Tour de Marianas)" on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

10. Build a stage and permanent structures for the Thursday night market.

11. Sell the casino hotel and& refer to the other things I mentioned in my previous letters.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman III, Saipan

September 11, 2001

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs *at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.*

Twenty years ago, the United States was attacked by terrorists who were affiliated with Osama Bin Laden. The attacks were the outcome of several driving factors ranging from deep opposition to American foreign policy in the broader Middle East to missed opportunities to stop the attack by U.S. law enforcement and intelligence officials, and to chance.

Several thousand people died on 9/11 and approximately 25,000 people were injured. Most of the victims were in New York City, followed by the Washington, D.C. region, followed by the plane crash in Pennsylvania. First responders also died that day and many years after they initially inhaled toxic chemicals from all the destruction and debris at the Twin Towers site.

Daily living throughout the American empire literally changed overnight.

Our Chamorro people and some 9/11 experiences

On Sept. 11, 2001, our fellow Chamorros were living in various place throughout and outside of the Marianas Islands to include Europe, the continental U.S., and Asia. Most of our people reacted in similar ways—shocked, worried about family members, and what might happen next.

Some of our family members made the decision to join the military as one of several ways to help with the response to the attacks on the American homeland.

To date, a terrorist attack like 9/11 has not happened on the American homeland or colonial islands, yet in the world of cyberspace, war remains an ongoing and increasing concern.

Many remember, many do not

As time continues to pass, some remember the 9/11 attacks like it was yesterday. Others vaguely remember what they were doing that day, and for some young people, they were either babies or not yet conceived.

Today, young Chamorros and citizens living throughout the American empire know the United States only as a nation at war in faraway places.

Millions of citizens have never conceptualized the idea of an America at peace, nor have they had the opportunity to fully understand the various complexities of the 9/11 attacks on the American empire.

Conversely, our Chamorro people have intimate knowledge of war and violence across generations, whether it was related to our grandparents or parents who experienced World War II hardships, or uncles, siblings, or cousins who went to war in Vietnam, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, or fought in Iraq or Afghanistan. Today, many of our families have gone through a variety of hardships tied to extended family separations, family members injured, and some who never came home alive.

At the time of the attacks on 9/11, hundreds of Chamorros were living and working throughout America's national capital region and in the New York City area. The writer worked in the wing of the Pentagon that got hit by the plane. As things turned out that morning, the writer was not downstairs getting coffee at 9:37am at the small coffee shop near Army offices.

Lessons of recollection from 9/11

A lesson that may be instructive is that one's day can't be going that bad if a terrorist-controlled jetliner doesn't crash into your office building.

Another lesson that may be instructive is despite all the injustices taking place with the military buildup of our Marianas Island chain and region, hundreds if not thousands of our people have or continue to work and hold day jobs throughout the broad American national security community. Contradictions abound.

How these lessons from 9/11 can make our ancient Chamorro civilization more resilient, thoughtful, and appreciative

During the first 50 years of American military dictatorship in Guam, our families literally put up with several kinds of unjust behaviors and policies sponsored by the U.S. military. Many of our families also worked for the Navy during this time.

The American military abandoned our families in 1940 in anticipation of a Japanese attack in Guam. Our families remained, suffered, some died and the rest persevered. For those who did not die, many became stronger, more resilient, or more ill from a variety of wartime and post-war factors introduced into our island chain.

Today, our ancient Pacific Islander civilization collectively faces deep and coordinated institutional discrimination by the American national government founded on the premise that our ancient Chamorro voices, legitimate concerns, and values are being dismissed, ignored, or not taken seriously. Yet we remain present, resourceful, and resilient, to a degree that others outside of our culture and civilization may not fully understand or appreciate.

What many people who are not very familiar with our ancient Chamorro civilization may not realize is that, despite the complexities of American policy practices and distorted behaviors being undertaken by the federal national regime throughout our ancient island chain, our people still wake up every morning, try their best, and remain present.

For the writer, if a terrorist controlled commercial jetliner doesn't fly into one's office space at several hundreds of miles per hour today, the day can't really be that bad.

BIDEN

From Page 8

camps. Nothing is more important than mending these divisions, at least so far as the pandemic is concerned. Biden's opponents ought to stop and think. His initiative should unite the country in a new determination to defeat its common enemy.

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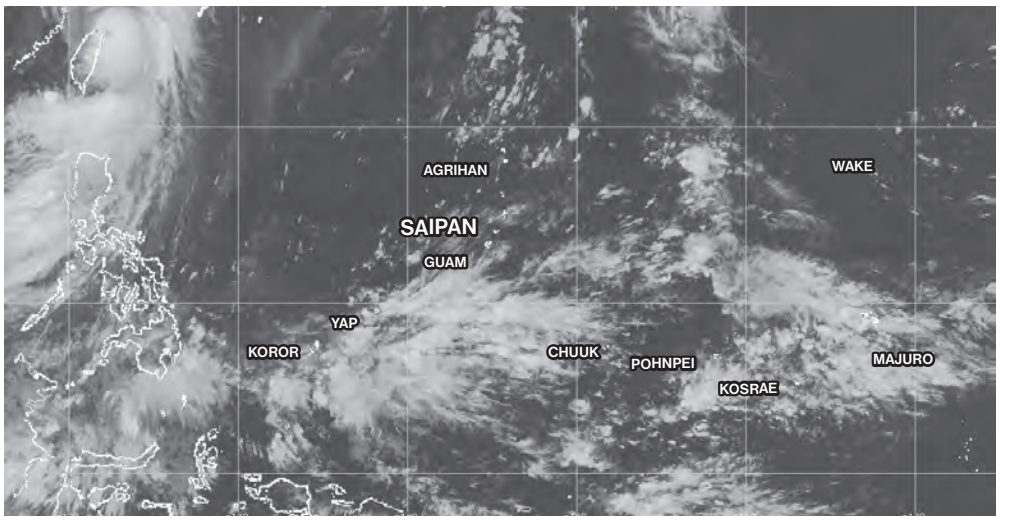
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and heavy rainfall.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle trade-wind flow prevails in the Marianas today, with partly cloudy skies and isolated showers through tonight. The Ipan buoy is showing seas near 3 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly cloudy	80 / 88 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	79 / 87 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	77 / 88 °F
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	78 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Morning clouds	77 / 89 °F
Kosrae	Morning clouds	81 / 87 °F
Majuro	Morning clouds	83 / 87 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:17 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:48 AM	11:20 PM	-
Tuesday	12:51 PM	6:35 PM	-
Wednesday	-	12:18 AM	1:53 PM
Thursday	-	1:18 AM	2:51 PM
Friday	-	2:20 AM	3:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	51 / 60 °F
Beijing	Broken clouds	66 / 83 °F
Hong Kong	Partly sunny	83 / 90 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 83 °F
London	Partly cloudy	56 / 67 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	64 / 79 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	80 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Mostly cloudy	48 / 58 °F
Miami	Mostly sunny	81 / 89 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	67 / 80 °F
Osaka	Mostly sunny	67 / 92 °F
Paris	Partly cloudy	54 / 85 °F
Pusan	Mostly cloudy	74 / 78 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	66 / 89 °F
Salem	Cloudy	54 / 67 °F
San Francisco	Morning clouds	57 / 71 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	66 / 83 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	73 / 85 °F
Washington, DC	Partly sunny	65 / 80 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
6:24 AM	Low Tide	0.07
1:23 PM	High Tide	1.74
6:40 PM	Low Tide	1.24
11:49 PM	High Tide	1.85

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:45am	7:25am	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:45am	10:25am	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	2, 5
UA183	7:25pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:45am	9:10pm	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:45am	9:10pm	4, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	3
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	5:00am	5:41am	1, 3, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:41am	2, 4, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	9:50pm	3:55am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:25pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	9:50pm	5:41am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	5:41am+1	7 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:41am+1	1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	3
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

United Airlines expands its Guam-Manila flight service

United Airlines announced Friday that it expanded its Guam-Manila service to daily from five-times weekly starting last Sept. 7, 2021. This expanded service conveniently provides customers in Guam with more options to travel to Manila and daily connections for Manila passengers connecting to United's daily Guam-Saipan service and Guam-Honolulu flights that offer further connections to U.S. cities such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Denver.

Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Airport Operations for Asia-Pacific said, "United continues to find

» Carrier now offers daily flights between Guam and Manila

opportunities to provide better connections for its customers in the region. The Guam-Manila flight is an important service for Guam residents seeking medical care in the Philippines and Philippines travelers looking to connect to the mainland U.S. through Guam and Honolulu. We are pleased to be able to offer our customers more flights between Guam and Manila and return to our daily schedule."

With the addition of Monday and Thursday schedules, flights will depart and arrive at A. B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam and land and depart from Terminal 3 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila.

Shinohara noted that the Philippines is a key market in Asia, and United will be celebrating its 40th anniversary of service to the Philippines in 2022.

The flight offers three types of onboard services: United Business Class, Economy Plus which offers extra legroom, and United Economy. Tickets are available for purchase at united.com.

Flight No.	Airport (departs/arrives)		Frequency	Aircraft
UA 183	Guam 7:25 p.m.	Manila 9:10 p.m.	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat., and Sun.	B737
	Guam 7:05 p.m.	Manila 8:50 p.m.	Tues. and Fri.	
UA 184	Manila 10:25 p.m.	Guam 4:30 a.m. +1	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Sat., and Sun.	B737
	Manila 9:50 p.m.	Guam 3:55 a.m. +1	Tues. and Fri.	

Committed to ensuring a safe journey

United is committed to putting health and safety at the forefront of every customer's journey, with the goal of delivering an industry-leading standard of cleanliness through its United CleanPlus program. United has teamed up with Clorox and Cleveland Clinic to redefine cleaning and health safety procedures from check-in to landing and has implemented more than a dozen new policies, protocols, and innovations designed with the safety of customers and employees in mind. To manage entry requirements in different destinations, and find places to get tests, customers can visit Travel Ready Center on United's app and website.

United waives change fees

United is allowing changes without a fee for international travel if the ticket is issued by Sept. 30, 2021. Basic Economy tickets can only be changed if they're issued by Dec. 31, 2021, for travel commencing by Dec. 31, 2021.

United in the Philippines

United has provided service to Manila for nearly 40 years and over the course of the pandemic has maintained continuous service between Manila and Guam. United will celebrate the 40th anniversary of its service to the Philippines in 2022. United is the only U.S. airline connecting Manila and Guam, thus also offering convenient flight service to Honolulu and Saipan via its hub in Guam. ***(PR)***

Emergency water service interruptions

There is an ongoing emergency water service interruption that started yesterday at 3:30pm and will last until today, Sept. 13, at 6am for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the Kagman, Papago, San Vicente, Upper Dandan Homestead, Obyan and Naftan areas.

The emergency water service interruption is due to the isolation of the Kagman water tank due to low tank level and to ensure that customers will receive water this morning. Water operators are troubleshooting the cause of the low tank level by identifying leaks in the transmission and distribution system. Updates for the scheduled water services for the affected areas will be released today.

Last Thursday, CUC.'s power plant on Rota experienced a mechanical problem on the engines at around 9:07am that caused an island-wide power outage.

CUC Rota personnel worked throughout the day to identify the cause of the problem and additional personnel from CUC Saipan and Hawthorne CAT were sent to assist CUC Rota with the troubleshooting and restoration of power services. ***(PR)***

BIG BELL INC.
PO BOX 5423 CHRB
SAIPAN MP 96950
TEL (670) 288-6108

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CEMENT MASON
CONSTRUCTION LABORER
GENERAL SERVICE & MAINTENANCE REPAIRER

Interested individuals please submit resume with photocopy of identification card and updated police clearance to Big Bell Inc Office.

Office located at Lissif Lane Tanapag Village Saipan or email at accounting@bigbellsaipan.com

U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, EAD Holders preferred.

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-21-2040
Acquisition of Riding Mower for MVA Tinian and MVA Rota

Submission /Closing Date: **September 15, 2021** **Time: 3:00PM (ChST)**

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 50086, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested firms may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **September 01, 2021** at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Bids submitted from firms outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service by **September 15, 2021** and must be received by MVA within seven (7) working days of that date. Bidders from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer, Ms. Lenette Maratita in writing of their intent to bid in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Bid Documents. This notice of intent to bid may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to (670) 664-3237 or emailed to lmaratita@mymarianas.com. Notification of intent to bid must be received by MVA no later than **3:00PM** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) on **September 10, 2021** and must reference **"MVA-ITB-21-2040"** on the subject line.

/s/ Elisbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
p.o. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 Fax: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. ***Public hearing.*** In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) will conduct a public hearing at the *New Cafeteria Building, next to Building D, Marianas High School, Bwaay Lane, Susupe, Saipan*, on *Friday, September 24, 2021*, at *5:00 p.m.*, on the application of *Marshall Holdings CNMI LLC*, Applicant for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed *$6.447 million for solar energy production, inter-island ocean transport, import/export and eco-tourism.* All pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. ***Nature of hearing.*** This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. ***Further Information.*** For further information, please contact CEDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its office at the CEDA Building, Beach Road, Oleai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-21-032
SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION (SCADA) FOR POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for a turn-key design and implementation (Design, Supply and Installation) of SCADA system at its Primary Power Plant (Power Plant No.1), Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The award of this project is under the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-21-032, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on October 13, 2021.** Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 22, 2021** to manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, CUC's Power Generation Manager via email richard.cano@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

09/09/2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after September 27, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Tinian Elementary School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	San Jose Village, Tinian	$ 677,503.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **September 24, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

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Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	San Antonio Village, Saipan	$ 1,271,249.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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Governor, CNMI

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Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) Marianas High School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	Susupe Village, Saipan	$ 1,240,351.29

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Public School System (PSS) William S. Reyes Elementary School Rehabilitation Project	To repair and restore the school damaged from Typhoon Yutu	Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan	$ 2,296,875.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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Governor, CNMI

Health & Wellness

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DREAMSTIME/TNS

A Stanford obesity study finds the entire body undergoes changes for the worse when we pack on the pounds.

Study examines how weight gain changes your whole body

By LISA M. KRIEGER
THE MERCURY NEWS

Weight gain isn't just a number on your bathroom scale.

A new Stanford study has found that the entire body undergoes changes for the worse when people pack on the pounds.

Even just a modest weight gain of about 6 pounds causes bacterial populations to change, immune responses to shift and changes in the molecular pathways associated with heart disease, researchers found.

"Your body is responding to a very stressful event," said lead researcher Michael Snyder, a professor of genetics at Stanford.

But here's the good news: When the weight is lost, the body's systems return to their natural, healthier state.

A paper describing the study as published in Wednesday's issue of the journal Cell Systems.

"The whole body is engaging," Snyder said. Weight gain "is a systemic disease, not just affecting your fat, but affecting your whole body. And luckily, it reverses when you lose it."

The team studied 23 people with body mass indexes of between 25 and 35 kilograms per square meter. A BMI of 25 is on the high-end of normal; a BMI of more than 40 roughly equates to morbid obesity.

About half of the people were insulin-resistant or at risk of diabetes. The other half were insulin-sensitive or able to process insulin normally.

From blood samples, they pooled millions of pieces of information from participants' transcriptome, a collection of molecules that reveal patterns of DNA expression; the proteome, the complete set of proteins that are produced; the microbiome, the microbes that keep us alive; and the genome, or genetic blueprint.

Then participants received a high-calorie diet—about 1,000 extra calories per day for men, 750 for women—and after 30 days they had, on average, tacked on 6 pounds.

'It's not unlike what a lot of us have just done over the Christmas holiday," Snyder said. "This is not outside the realm of what normally goes on."

And with weight gain—moderate though it was—the participant's underlying biological profiles shifted, too.

"The goal was to characterize what happens during weight gain and loss at a level that no one has ever done before," Snyder said.

The team also wanted to study the underlying molecular shifts in people at risk of diabetes.

"Most studies look at just one little part of something. It's like making a jigsaw puzzle by just looking at the edge pieces," he said. "We are trying to look at the entire puzzle, putting all the pieces together, which lets us see things much better."

The 17-member Stanford research team included experts with Stanford Bio-X, the Stanford Child Health Research Institute, the Stanford Cancer Institute, the Stanford Neurosciences Institute and the Stanford Cardiovascular Institute. Researchers at the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine, Yale University, the Royal Institute of Technology, the Chalmers Institute of Technology, the University of Gothenburg and Uppsala University also contributed to the work.

Their analysis revealed a shift in the body's microbiome, the vast army of microbes that protect us against germs, breaks down food to release energy, produce vitamins and perform other tasks.

Microbial species changed with weight gain, the researchers found. For instance, populations of a bacteria called Akkermansia muciniphila, which is known to protect against insulin resistance, shot up. This is a trend that could help understand the underlying dynamics that lead to diabetes.

Secondly, there was a change in the body's immune responses. Inflammation flared more in normal people than in those with extra pounds, they found.

With weight gain, "inflammation was a little impaired," Snyder said. "The immune system is a bit crippled."

Finally, the molecular pathways associated with heart disease were activated. There was a shift in gene expression associated with increased risk for a type of heart failure called dilated cardiomyopathy, in which the heart cannot pump blood efficiently to the rest of the body.

This might explain, indirectly, why the risk of heart attack climbs with added weight, said Snyder. While the activated pathway is not causing heart issues, "it is a signal of what's going on."

Snyder's advice: "Don't gain the weight. Exercise, and the food you eat, are absolutely critical."

3 things you can do

to stop the spread of COVID-19 whether you're vaccinated or not

By DEEDEE STIEPAN
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

To maximize protection from the COVID-19 delta variant and limit the spread of COVID-19 to others, health experts continue to urge that people get vaccinated for COVID-19 and wear a mask indoors in public in areas of substantial or high transmission.

Dr. Andrew Badley, chair of Mayo Clinic's COVID-19 Task Force, shares three things you can do to stop the spread of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status:

■ If you're exposed to or test positive for COVID-19, isolate to prevent the spread.

■ If you're exposed to and diagnosed with COVID-19, seek care quickly. If you are treated for COVID-19, the amount of virus that you shed is less than if you're not treated.

■ Do what you can do to prevent societal spread of COVID-19. You should get vaccinated for COVID-19, wash your hands frequently and avoid congregant groups. Even those who aren't vaccinated for COVID-19 can wash their hands frequently and avoid congregant groups.

With school starting up and a lot of large outdoor events, such as fairs and festivals, taking place, many are looking for guidance on what is safe. Dr. Badley says he tailors his advice to each patient, and he suggests approaching the question with a risk-benefit analysis.

"If you have an underlying, immunosuppressive condition that makes you unlikely to respond to the vaccine, if you're unvaccinated, or if you or a loved one at home have a high risk for serious complications from COVID, my advice to a friend or a loved one would be not to put yourself in situations where there's a high risk of exposure," says Dr. Badley.

"I'm hopeful that when we have spikes in cases, as we are having right now, that all people will together rise up and take all of those recommendations so that we can stop this current surge and really stop COVID in its tracks to get control of this pandemic."

Information in this post was accurate at the time of its posting. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific understanding, along with guidelines and recommendations, may have changed since the original publication date. ©2021 Mayo Clinic News Network. Visit newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Justin Bieber to make triumphant return to MTV VMAs

The 2021 MTV Video Music Awards will get a dose of "Bieber fever" for the first time in six years. Justin Bieber is set to return to the VMAs stage for an all-star caliber event that will air Sunday night at 8 p.m. EDT. The awards show will be held in-person at the Barclays Center in New York after holding a mostly virtual show last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. Bieber leads this year's show with seven nominations, including video of the year for "POPSTAR" and artist of the year. He last took the VMAs stage in 2015 when he performed "What Do You Mean?" Other scheduled performances include Lil Nas X, Camila Cabello, Chloe, Kacey Musgraves, Shawn Mendes, Olivia Rodrigo, Machine Gun Kelly and Doja Cat—who will also serve as the show's host. ***(AP)***

French abortion drama 'Happening' tops Venice Film Festival

Audrey Diwan's 1960s abortion drama "L'Evenement" ("Happening") won the Golden Lion at the 78th Venice International Film Festival, while the runner up honor went to Paolo Sorrentino's semi-autobiographical "The Hand of God." Diwan's film about a French college student who finds herself with an unwanted pregnancy was the unanimous choice from the prestigious jury that included recent Oscar winners Bong Joon Ho and Chloé Zhao. The competition this year was robust, including well-received films like Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog," Pedro Almodóvar's "Parallel Mothers," Maggie Gyllenhaal's "The Lost Daughter" and "The Hand of God." Twenty-one films were vying for the prize, which has become a promising early indicator of a film's Oscars prospects. ***(AP)***

Prince Andrew's lawyers question service of legal documents

LONDON (AP)—A U.S. court will hold a pretrial conference Monday in the civil suit filed by a woman who claims Prince Andrew sexually assaulted her as the two sides argue over whether the prince was properly served with documents in the case. Attorneys for the woman, Virginia Giuffre, say the documents were handed over to a Metropolitan Police officer on duty at the main gates of Andrew's home in Windsor Great Park on Aug. 27. But Blackfords, a law firm that said they represent Andrew "in certain U.K. matters," have questioned whether the papers were properly served and raised the possibility of challenging the court's jurisdiction in the case, according to a Sept. 6 letter referenced in court documents filed by Giuffre's attorneys. "We reiterate that our client reserves all his rights, including to contest the jurisdiction of the US courts (including on the basis of potentially defective service)," they wrote.

Ben Affleck, Jennifer Lopez make romance official in Venice

NEW YORK (AP)—After weeks of smooching on yachts and holding hands on intimate walks, Jennifer Lopez and old flame turned new again Ben Affleck made it official Friday night on the red carpet for the premiere of Affleck's "The Last Duel" at the Venice International Film Festival. She was dripping in Cartier diamonds in a white mermaid body hugging gown with plunging neckline and high side slit by Georges Hobeika. He was dapper in a black Dolce & Gabbana tuxedo. There were plenty of kisses and hugs for the cameras after a summer of love for the two, who rekindled their romance in May, 17 years after they broke up in 2004. They were spotted out and about in Venice before their formal coming out. At the premiere, the 49-year-old Affleck waved to the crowd as he helped Lopez, 52, out of a black car and onto the red carpet.

Long friendship takes stark turn over finances

DEAR ABBY: A friend of 40 years is always saying what she can't afford, yet she owns property, has a 401(k), always finds additional work in her field and buys the cheapest groceries. She won't spend a dime, even when it's necessary.

In a recent text she was going on again about money. When I (jokingly) quipped, "You're probably a millionaire by now!" she jumped on me as if I'd called her the B-word and went off on a rant. I was dumbfounded. I apologized because she felt I'd badly offended her by calling her a "millionaire." When she didn't respond, I left it alone. This was a few days ago. This morning I got a text from her as if nothing happened.

I'm no longer feeling like I'm her "friend." Looking back, she was never a good hostess when I flew out of state to visit her. Nor has she ever treated me for lunch or dinner, although I was happy to treat her to lunch when she came to visit. I don't feel the caring, generous, giving aspect that usually goes with long-term friendship. When she was down financially, I offered. I haven't experienced the same from her. I feel shot down and ready to call it quits. Your expert advice is most appreciated and needed.

FALLING OUT OF FRIENDSHIP

DEAR FALLING OUT: Before ending a 40-year friendship, please TELL this woman she hurt your feelings. Then ask why your casual comment triggered such a strong reaction. Her response to your reasonable question will tell you everything you need to know about whether your relationship is salvageable.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a stay-at-home mom of a 4-year-old son who is the light of my life. I truly enjoy our days together. For various reasons, my husband and I have decided he will be our only child. He will soon be in school almost full time and I will be returning to work. When I think about it, I get depressed. These have been the best years of my life, and I think I made a mistake letting my son become my "reason" for happiness. I know we will make many more memories together, but I feel like it's kind of the end of an era and I'm not sure what to do with myself. Can you advise?

MOMMY MOVING FORWARD

DEAR MOMMY: This may be "the end of an era," but it is also the beginning of a NEW one. Your son is about to experience the first of many growth spurts, and you along with him. In addition to his academic lessons, he's going to learn how to become independent and relate to other children. Both are vital to his development as a person.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Rather than dwell on your sadness, consider this a time of growth for yourself as well, and focus on the positive. If you can help out at your son's school, volunteer if you have time outside of work. Depending upon your child's extracurricular interests (like sports, perhaps?), you may find yourself involved with those and busier than ever. Because he's starting school doesn't mean your role as a mother is done. Quite the contrary.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

CNMI SCHOLARSHIP BOARD

P.O. Box 5729 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950 | Telephone No. (670) 664-4750

Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, Chairwoman
Charlene S. Masiwemai, Member
Zerlyn Taimanao, Member
Tinianna Hofschneider, Member
Diana B. Hocog, Member
Arnold L Palacios, Lt. Governor

Pursuan to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its 2nd regular board meeting on Wednesday, September 15th, 2021 at 1:00pm on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Board Correspondences
VI. Public Comments
VII. Old Business
VIII. New Business
  a. Reinstatement of Suspended Scholarship Programs
  b. Determination of New Award Amounts
  c. Discussion of a Separate Deadline for NMTI Scholarship Applications
IX. Administrator's Updates
X. Committee Updates
XI. Announcements & Next Meeting
XII. Adjournment

/s/ Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, Chairwoman

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDITS FOR FY 2021 AND 2022
MPLT RFP 21-01

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) is soliciting Request for Proposal (RFP) for Financial and Compliance Audit for MPLT for fiscal years 2021 and 2022. Copy of the RFP is available @ www.mplt.gov.mp or may be pick-up at MPLT, 1222 Capital Hill Road, Saipan, MP 96950.

Office Hours: 8:00am – 5:00pm, Monday – Friday

Contact Barbara Reyes at (670) 322-4401/4402 or email: mplt@mplt.gov.mp for more information.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:
4:00 P.M., Friday, September 30, 2021

PLACE:
Marianas Public Land Trust
P.O. Box 501089
1222 Capital Hill Road
Saipan, MP 96950

The MPLT reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the Trust best interest. All proposals shall become the property of MPLT.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Wednesday, September 15, 2021*** at 8am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor's Conference Room on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(08/11/2021)**
V. Public Comments
  • Dr. Rajesh Sarkar
VI. Chairperson's Report
VII. Director's Report
  • Final Certification of Psychology and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Regulations
  • License Fees Online Payment
  • Update on HB 22-26 – Removal of term limitations for HCPLB
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
  A. Governor's Office
  B. Legislature
  • SB 22-05 To Establish a Behavioral Health Professional Scholarship; and for other purposes
X. Old Business
  • Addiction Professionals Proposed Regulation
XI. New Business
  • Proposed Amendments to the Psychology and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Regulations
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
  A. New Application
  B. Renewal Applications
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
  • Dr. Rajesh Sarkar
  • Dr. Todd Ozdych
XV. Announcements
  A. Next Meeting Date
  B. Adjournment of Meeting

Pastimes

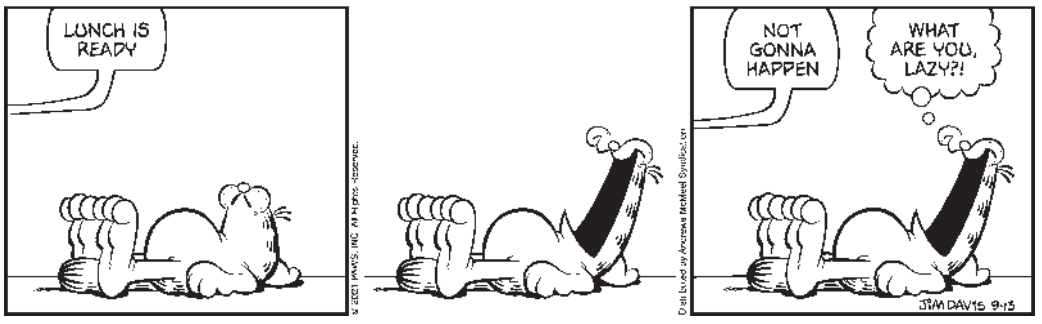
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

C'MON, CALVIN! I SIGNED YOU UP FOR SWIMMING LESSONS
I DON'T WANT SWIMMING LESSONS!!
TOO LATE. LET'S GO.
WHAT ABOUT HOBBES? DID YOU SIGN HIM UP TOO?
NO. IT'S NOT GOOD TO GET TIGERS WET.
WHY IS THAT?
IT TAKES US ALL DAY TO DRY, AND UNTIL WE DO, WE SMELL FUNNY.

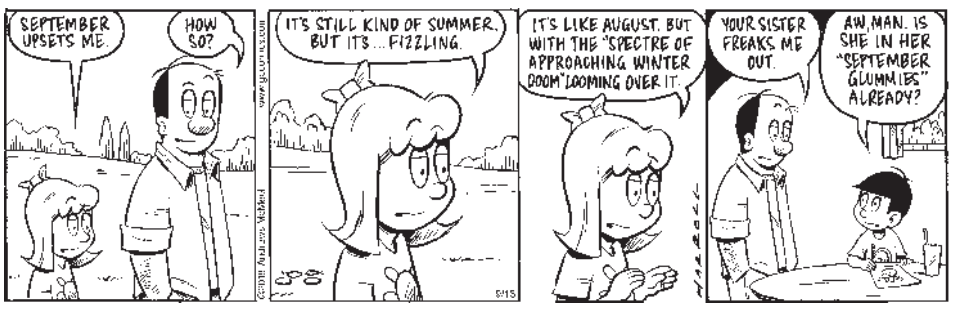
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



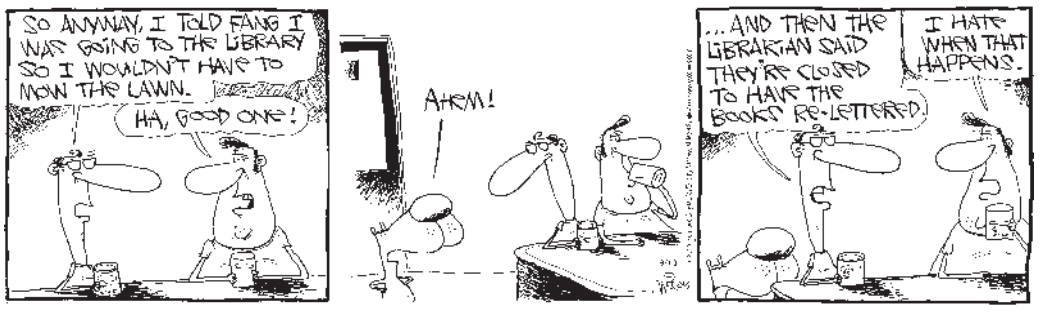
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SEPTEMBER UPSETS ME.
HOW SO?
IT'S STILL KIND OF SUMMER, BUT IT'S... FIZZLING.
IT'S LIKE AUGUST, BUT WITH THE "SPECTRE OF APPROACHING WINTER DOOM" LOOMING OVER IT.
YOUR SISTER FREAKS ME OUT.
AW, MAN. IS SHE IN HER "SEPTEMBER GLUMMIES" ALREADY?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


SO ANYWAY, I TOLD FANG I WAS GOING TO THE LIBRARY SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO MOW THE LAWN.
HA, GOOD ONE!
AHEM!
...AND THEN THE LIBRARIAN SAID THEY'RE CLOSED TO HAVE THE BOOKS RE-LETTERED.
I HATE WHEN THAT HAPPENS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Pronto
5 Tummy muscles
8 Sports-caster Collins-worth
12 Back door
14 Coop group
15 Wall scrawl
16 Deserve
17 TGIF part
18 Vineyard harvest
20 Big Dipper points
23 Latin 101 word
24 Soccer star Mia
25 Pasture growth
28 Singer DiFranco
29 Diner seating
30 Poetic contraction
32 Yogurt topping
34 Wee
35 Marquis de —
36 Villain's look
37 NYC's — Mansion
40 Parking place
41 Took the train
42 School alumnus
47 Bard's river
48 Shared rumors
49 Optimum
50 Drunkard
51 Low digits

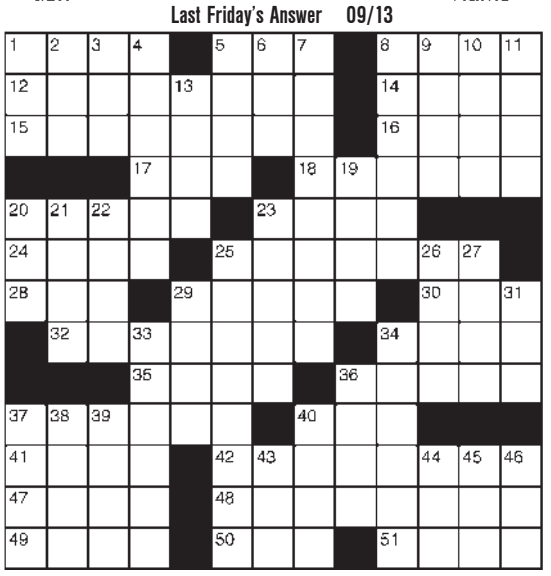
DOWN

1 S.A. nation
2 Sun. talk
3 Bond rating
4 Spin doctor's employer
5 Pivot line
6 Iota
7 Cruci-fixion wounds
8 Cons
9 Harvest
10 Con-cerning
11 Taxpayer IDs
13 New newts
19 Impetuous
20 — Na Na
21 Tart flavor
22 "Star Wars" actor El-Masry
23 Play — in (affect)
25 Decent folks
26 Diminutive suffix
27 Locale
29 — B'rith
31 Neighbor of Leb.
33 Climb
34 Sense
36 Lays down the lawn
37 Seize
38 Wander
39 Big fusses
40 Endure
43 Aussie hopper
44 Mil. address
45 Golf peg
46 Asner and Harris

Solution time: 26 mins.

C	P	A		B	A	R	E		G	E	R	E
C	R	B		R	I	B	S		A	R	A	L
M	E	T	E	O	R	I	C		L	I	C	K
		I	S	T	S			S	O	C	K	S
S	L	O		H		U	B	E	R			
L	I	V	E		E	S	O	T	E	R	I	C
A	P	E		G	R	A	S	S		E	C	O
B	A	R	B	A	P	I	C		T	S	A	R
			A	S	S	N		F	I	E	N	D
C	H	I	R	P			T	U	N	A		
C	U	R	B		T	U	R	M	E	R	I	C
I	G	O	R		O	T	O	F		C	R	O
X	E	N	A		W	A	K	D		H	E	X

Last Friday's Answer 09/13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lili Reinhart, 25; Ben Savage, 41; Jean Smart, 70; Jacqueline Bisset, 77.

Happy Birthday: Invest in learning, expanding your interests and spending time with supportive people who share your beliefs and opinions. Eliminate whatever stands between you and what you want. Be innovative, and you'll develop a plan that will help you stay true to yourself and achieve your dreams, hopes and wishes. Don't give in or give up; do your own thing. Your numbers are 7, 18, 24, 29, 31, 33, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Bring on the heat. If you want something, take the initiative and make it happen. Refuse to let anyone step in and take over. Show your strengths, and you will come out on top. What you achieve will lead to more extensive opportunities. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* When in doubt, take a pass. Too much of anything is a warning sign. Protect your reputation, health and the relationships that are important to you. Put your energy into securing your future, not jeopardizing what you are trying to achieve. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* There is nothing more exciting than discovering something or someone who gives you food for thought. Engaging in talks will lead to a fun day filled with hope, new interests and putting an end to what's holding you back. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Getting out and sharing with people you enjoy is fine, but don't compromise your health and well-being. Curiosity can lead to something new and exciting, but don't lose sight of an outcome that could affect the people around you. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Be observant, and you'll avoid getting dragged into an unsavory situation. Take a greater interest in events or activities that make you think and give you access to people who have something to offer mentally and emotionally. Don't limit what you can achieve. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Tell it like it is, and you'll forgo an onslaught of negativity and setbacks. Know what you want, and don't be afraid to put your plans into action. A change will motivate you to protect your reputation, finances and health. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Bring up topics of discussion that require resolution. Your input and persuasive charm will help swing someone's opinion regarding an issue that needs rectification. Refuse to let jealousy stand in the way. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Dial it down and focus on what's important. Put your emotions aside to do what's necessary to sustain the lifestyle that brings you peace of mind. Set priorities when taking care of other people's affairs. It's time to put your needs first. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Do what's necessary to move on without getting hung up on trivial matters. Look at the big picture, and you will see a clear path to the destination of your choice. Use intelligence to get your way, and bypass outside interference. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put your energy into something that offers stability. Make changes to lower your overhead. Learn through observation, and refuse to let emotions cloud your vision or take you down a path that leads nowhere. Simplify your life, and gain peace of mind. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Trust what's tangible, not hearsay. Gather facts and make decisions geared toward saving and clearing up any financial, medical or legal problems that might jeopardize your chance to achieve your goals. Don't fold under pressure. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take better care of yourself. Spend more time on fitness, diet and resolving issues that can set you back financially. Discuss your intentions with someone who has something to offer in return. Handle partnerships with care to avoid emotional backlash. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: you are precise, unique and engaging. You are sensitive and persuasive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4	3	2	8		6	
							5	9
8				6				
4				5				6
5		7	9		1	4		2
2				7				1
				1				3
1	8							
	3		4	9	2	7		

Difficulty Level ★ 9/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

5	8	3	7	1	9	4	6	2
4	7	1	2	6	5	9	3	8
9	6	2	3	4	8	1	7	5
2	3	8	4	9	7	5	1	6
1	9	5	6	2	3	8	4	7
7	4	6	8	5	1	3	2	9
3	5	7	1	8	6	2	9	4
6	2	9	5	3	4	7	8	1
8	1	4	9	7	2	6	5	3

Difficulty level ★★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PERSONAL INVECTIVES AREN'T NICE **Solution: 8 letters**

T	A	R	E	V	I	L	E	M	E	N	T	V	(H)	R
N	H	G	Y	F	I	T	R	O	M	N	T	S	(U)	A
E	O	R	G	B	S	H	A	M	E	A	A	S	(R)	E
T	D	I	E	R	E	Z	A	F	C	R	D	E	(T)	W
A	I	L	T	A	I	L	O	T	B	E	I	R	M	S
I	S	E	V	I	T	E	L	P	X	E	S	P	S	R
L	M	T	I	R	N	E	V	N	P	C	P	E	U	D
I	A	P	E	M	S	O	N	E	E	R	L	D	E	I
M	Y	A	U	S	P	O	M	N	M	T	E	G	O	A
U	T	I	A	D	P	O	S	D	H	I	A	S	H	T
H	D	R	N	E	E	U	L	G	A	R	S	L	S	R
O	A	I	V	J	R	N	U	I	T	A	E	U	R	I
H	A	R	U	E	U	O	T	U	T	D	B	R	A	B
P	E	S	M	C	H	R	O	F	F	E	N	D	H	E
N	C	O	N	T	U	M	E	L	Y	S	M	U	L	C

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Admonition, Aggrieve, Barb, Brash, Censure, Clumsy, Contumely, Deject, Depress, Diatribe, Dismay, Displease, Expletives, Faze, Harass, Harm, Harsh, Humiliate, Hurt, Impolite, Impudent, Injure, Libel, Maltreat, Mean, Mortify, Nerve, Odium, Offend, Oppress, Outrage, Pain, Revilement, Rude, Shame, Slur, Swear, Tactless, Thoughtless, Threaten, Tirade, Upset

Last Friday's Answer: Grateful

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Qualifier to champion: Britain's Raducanu, 18, wins US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—British teenager Emma Raducanu arrived in New York last month with a ranking of 150th, just one Grand Slam appearance to her name and a flight booked to head out of town after the U.S. Open's preliminary rounds in case she failed to win her way into the main tournament.

And there she was in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday, cradling the silver trophy to complete an unlikely—indeed, unprecedented—and surprisingly dominant journey from qualifier to major champion by beating Canadian teenager Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-3 in the final.

"You say, 'I want to win a Grand Slam.' But to have the belief I did, and actually executing, winning a Grand Slam," Raducanu said, "I can't believe it."

Who could?

It's all so improbable.

Until three months ago, she had never played in a professional tour-level event, in part because she took 18 months for a combination of reasons: the pandemic and her parents' insistence that she complete her high school degree.

"My dad is definitely very tough to please," the 18-year-old Raducanu said with a smile Saturday evening. "But I managed to today."

She is the female qualifier to reach a Grand Slam final, let alone win one. She captured 10 matches in a row at Flushing Meadows—three in qualifying, seven in the main draw—and is the first woman to win the U.S. Open title without dropping a set since Serena Williams in 2014.

Raducanu, who was born in Toronto and moved to England with her family at age 2, also is the first British woman to win a Grand Slam singles trophy since Virginia Wade at Wimbledon in 1977. Queen Elizabeth II sent a congratulatory note, hailing the victory as a "remarkable achievement at such a young age."

There were more firsts, too, emblematic of what a rapid rise this was. For example: Raducanu is the youngest female Grand Slam champion since Maria Sharapova was 17 at Wimbledon in 2004.

This was the first major final between two teens since Williams, 17, beat Martina Hingis, 18, at the 1999 U.S. Open; the first between two unseeded women in the professional era, which began in 1968.

Fernandez, whose 19th birthday was Monday and who is ranked 73rd, was asked during a pre-match interview in the hallway that leads from the locker room to the court entrance what she expected Saturday's greatest challenge to be.

Emma Raducanu, of Britain, kisses the US Open championship trophy after defeating Leylah Fernandez, of Canada, during the women's singles final of the US Open tennis championships, Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, in New York. AP

"Honestly," she responded, "I don't know."

Fair. Neither she nor Raducanu could have.

This was only Fernandez's seventh major tournament; she hadn't made it past the third round before.

As tears welled in her eyes after the final, she told the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd: "I hope to be back here in the finals and this time with a trophy—the right one."

Moments later, she asked for the microphone so she could address the 23,703 spectators again on the anniversary of 9-11.

"I just want to say that I hope I can be as strong and as resilient as New York has been the last 20 years," said Fernandez, born a year before the terrorist attacks. "Thank you for always having my back. Thank you for cheering for me."

Both she and Raducanu displayed the poise and shotmaking of veterans at the U.S. Open — not two relative newcomers whose previous head-to-head match came in the second round of the Wimbledon juniors event just three years ago.

The talent and affinity for the big stage both possess is unmistakable.

One of the significant differences on this day: Fernandez put only 58% of her first serves in play and finished with five double-faults, helping Raducanu accumulate 18 break points.

"I, unfortunately, made one too many mistakes in key moments," Fernandez said, "and she took advantage of it."

Raducanu broke to go up 4-2 in the second set, held for 5-2 and twice was a point from winning the title in the next game. But under pressure from Fernandez, she let both of those opportunities slip away by putting groundstrokes into the net.

Then, while serving for the match at 5-3, Raducanu slid on the court chasing a ball to her backhand side, bloodying her left knee while losing a point to give Fernandez break chance. Raducanu was ordered by chair umpire Marijana Veljovic to stop playing so a trainer could put a white bandage on the cut.

So what went through Raducanu's mind during that delay of more than four minutes at a critical juncture?

"Was really trying to think what my patterns of play were going to be, what I was going to try to execute," she said. "Going out there facing a break point after a ... disruption isn't easy. I think I managed, for sure, to really pull off the clutch plays when I needed to."

As if she'd been there before, Raducanu saved a pair of break points after the resumption, then converted on her third chance to close it out with a 108 mph ace. She dropped her racket, landed on her back and covered her face with both hands.

Eventually, she made her way into the stands to celebrate with her coach and others.

"That's something that you always think of, you always work for," she said.

Fernandez's group—including two sisters and Mom but not Dad, who stayed home in Florida, where they moved after her early success in the juniors several years ago—was in the guest box on the opposite end of the court, the one assigned to the higher-ranked player.

That's a status Fernandez was unaccustomed to as she beat four seeded women in a row, each in three sets: defending champion Naomi Osaka and 2016 champ Angelique Kerber, No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 5 Elina Svitolina.

That meant Fernandez came in having spent more than 12 1/2 hours on court through her six matches; Raducanu's main-draw total was about 7 1/2 hours.

That seemed to be a factor, particularly over the second half of the 1-hour, 51-minute final.

From 4-all in the opening set, Raducanu took eight of the last 11 games. When she broke to take that set with a well-paced, well-placed forehand winner down the line, she stared at her entourage, then whipped her arms—and the fans reacted.

Raducanu's only previous Grand Slam tournament came at Wimbledon, where she stopped playing during the fourth round because of trouble breathing. That was in July, when Raducanu was ranked outside the top 300 and an unknown.

And now? She will rise into the WTA's top 25. She earned $2.5 million. She is famous in Britain and the world over. She is now, and forever, a Grand Slam champion.

How quickly everything has changed.

Djokovic into US Open final, nears year Grand Slam

NEW YORK (AP)—If Novak Djokovic does complete the first calendar-year Grand Slam for a man since 1969—and he is headed to the U.S. Open final, just one victory away—he, and everyone else, will remember one particularly pivotal, and epic, game along the way.

It came at the conclusion of the third set of what eventually became a 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory over Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Alexander Zverev in the semifinals at Flushing Meadows on Friday night, making Djokovic 27-0 in major championships this season.

Beating No. 2 Daniil Medvedev on Sunday for the title will allow Djokovic to secure two significant milestones. He would add the 2021 U.S. Open trophy to those he won at the Australian Open in February, French Open in June and Wimbledon in July. And the 34-year-old from Serbia would collect his 21st Slam title in all, breaking the men's career mark he currently shares with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

"There's only one match left. ... All in. Let's do it," Djokovic said, spreading his arms wide, in an on-court interview. "I'm going to put my heart and my soul and my body and my head into that one. I'm going to treat the next match like it is the last match of my career."

That key game against Zverev featured one extended exchange after another, including a 53-shot, minute-plus point that was the longest of the tournament and actually was lost by Djokovic. Zverev delivered a forehand winner, then hunched over with his hands on his knees. Djokovic went to grab a towel. Both men were breathing heavily as most of Arthur Ashe Stadium's 21,139 spectators rose in unison on a cool, crisp evening.

But that one, tiny outcome didn't matter. Never seems to with Djokovic, especially in best-of-five-set matches on his sport's most prestigious stages. As usual, he used his superb returning and never-take-a-rest defense to wear down Zverev.

"I'm proud of the fight that I delivered," Djokovic said.

So, yes, Djokovic lost that point — which was preceded by others lasting 13, 19, 22 and 31 shots, and followed by one that went 16 — but he won that game, and that set with it. Just as he had lost the first set about 1 1/2 hours earlier but turned things around, with the help of a dip in level from the fourth-seeded Zverev. And just as, later, Djokovic lost the fourth set but immediately rebounded and was nearly untouchable while going ahead 5-0 in the fifth then held on.

Djokovic, who has spent more weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings than anyone, figures out what is required to emerge on top and does it. In each of his past four matches—and 10 in all at the Slams this year—he trailed by a set and won.

He equaled Federer by getting to a 31st career Slam final; Djokovic's total now includes a record nine in New York, where he has won three championships.

It will be Slam final No. 3 for Medvedev, a 25-year-old from Russia, who eliminated 12th-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 in the afternoon. Medvedev was defeated by Djokovic in this year's Australian Open final and by Nadal in the 2019 U.S. Open final.

"The more you lose something, the more you want to win it. The more you want to gain it and take it," said Medvedev, who has lost only one set over the past two weeks. "I lost two finals. I want to win the third one."

Djokovic is trying to go 4 for 4 at the majors over the course of one season, something last done in men's tennis by Rod Laver 52 years ago. It was also done by Laver in 1962 and Don Budge in 1938. Three women have completed what's known as a true Grand Slam, most recently Steffi Graf in 1988. Serena Williams' attempt in 2015 ended at the U.S. Open with a semifinal loss to Roberta Vinci.

"I'll be giving it all I possibly got in the tank to win this match. I'm focusing on recovery, recalibrating all the systems, basically, for Sunday," Djokovic said. "I'm not going to waste time or energy on anything that can just be a distraction and deplete me from the vital energy that I need."

As Friday night's semifinal began, the 81-year-old Laver was seated front and center behind a baseline in the President's Box at Ashe.

Brewers' Burnes, Hader combine to no-hit Indians in 3-0 win

CLEVELAND (AP)—Milwaukee ace Corbin Burnes combined with reliever Josh Hader to pitch baseball's record ninth no-hitter this season, breaking a mark set when pitchers began throwing overhand in 1884 as the Brewers beat the Cleveland Indians 3-0 on Saturday night.

Burnes (10-4) struck out 14 with 115 pitches over eight innings, taking a perfect game into the seventh while overpowering the Indians, who were no-hit for the third time in 2021. This time is was by Burnes—who has become a Cy Young contender as the Brewers run away with the NL Central—and Hader, one of the game's top closers.

Cleveland is the first team to be no-hit three times in the same year—all of them with starter Zach Plesac (10-5) on the mound.

The right-handed Burnes was in control from the start, striking out 11 of his first 14 hitters and retiring the first 18 in order. After walking Myles Straw to start the seventh, the 26-year-old got through the eighth thanks to a diving catch by center fielder Lorenzo Cain on Owen Miller's liner.

The Progressive Field crowd booed as Hader came on in the ninth. He overpowered Oscar Mercado, striking him out to start the inning. Then, first baseman Jace Peterson went into foul territory to making a lunging catch for the second out.

Hader ended the no-hitter by getting Straw to flail at a pitch in the dirt. The Brewers stormed the field to share hugs and high-fives with a signature victory in their runaway season.

Juan Nieves pitched the Brewers' previous no-hitter on April 15, 1987, at Baltimore.

Yankees 8, Mets 7

In New York, Aaron Judge tied it with his second homer of the game in the eighth inning, Mets infielder Javier Báez gave away the lead with an error a few at-bats later and the Yankees beat their cross-town rival at Citi Field following a stirring ceremony on the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

The Yankees snapped a seven-game skid and ended a run of 11 losses in 13 games since a 13-game winning streak pushed them to the AL wild-card lead. They dropped into a tie with Toronto for the second wild card. The Mets remained five games behind NL East-leading Atlanta after the Braves lost to the Marlins.

The Yankees jumped to a 5-0 lead shortly after an emotional pregame tribute, then let it all slip away, capped by James McCann's two-run homer that put the Mets up 6-5 in the sixth. The Mets added another run against Clay Holmes (7-3) before Judge lofted a tying two-run drive off Trevor May (7-3) that stayed in the air nearly seven seconds before dropping over the wall in left with no outs in the eighth.

Giants 15, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Tommy La Stella and Brandon Belt hit three-run homers and San Francisco pounded Chicago for its sixth straight victory.

La Stella finished with three hits, including a double, five RBIs and scored three runs to help surging San Francisco improve to a major league-best 92-50.

La Stella's home run off Tommy Nance in the fifth thudded off Wrigley's right-field videoboard and capped a six-run rally that allowed San Francisco to pull away.

Belt went deep and doubled for the second straight day. The 33-year-old first baseman has 23 homers, with 12 in his last 28 games, and 10 hits in his last 21 at-bats.

The Cubs dropped their second straight, and third in four following a seven-game winning streak

Dodgers 5, Padres 4

In Los Angeles, Mookie Betts hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer with two outs in the fifth inning and Los Angeles held off San Diego.

The Dodgers remained 2 1/2 games behind NL West-leading San Francisco.

Betts drove in four of the Dodgers' five runs. He had a sacrifice fly in the third that made it 2-0. Fernando Tatis Jr. slugged a two-run shot, his 38th, on the first pitch from Walker Buehler (14-3) that tied the game at 2 in the fourth.

Red Sox 9, White Sox 8, 10 innings

In Chicago, Travis Shaw hit a tiebreaking single in the 10th inning after belting a three-run homer in the third and Boston beat Chicago.

Filling in with J.D. Martinez scratched from the lineup, Shaw capped a seven-run third with a drive that made it 7-2 and chased Chicago starter Dylan Cease.

The AL Central-leading White Sox tied it with five in the fourth and took an 8-7 lead in the fifth when Yasmani Grandal homered off Ryan Brasier. Boston tied it in the eighth on Enrique Hernández's sacrifice fly against Craig Kimbrel.

Alex Verdugo started the 10th on second and moved up on Bobby Dalbec's grounder to first. Shaw then lined a tie-breaking single to right against Mike Wright (0-1).

Milwaukee Brewers starter Corbin Burnes, left, and reliever Josh Hader celebrate after pitching a combined no-hitter against the Cleveland Indians in a baseball game in Cleveland, Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021. AP

Rangers 8, Athletics 6

In Oakland, Calif., Jonah Heim hit a two-run home run with two outs in the eighth to cap a five-run rally, lifting Texas past Oakland.

Trailing 6-2 after being held down by starter Cole Irvin, the Rangers took advantage of the A's struggling bullpen. DJ Peters hit a two-run home run and Yohel Pozo added an RBI double off Sergio Romo before Heim's homer on an 0-2 pitch from Andrew Chafin (1-3).

Matt Olson, Starling Marte and Mark Canha homered for the A's. Leody Tavares connected for Texas in the ninth.

Blue Jays 11, Orioles 10, 1st game
Blue Jays 11, Orioles 2, 2nd game

In Baltimore, Bo Bichette and Alejandro Kirk hit a pair of two-run homers in an 11-run seventh and Toronto beat Baltimore to complete a doubleheader sweep.

In the opener, George Springer hit a two-out, two-run homer in the seventh.

In the nightcap, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. led off the seventh with single off rookie left-hander Keegan Akin (2-9), and Bichette followed with a towering homer to left field.

Tanner Scott entered for Baltimore and gave up another two-run homer to Kirk just over the right-field scoreboard. Marcus Semien and Teoscar Hernández added three-run shots and Toronto tied team records for an inning with the 11 runs, 11 hits and four homers.

In the opener, Guerrero hit his 43rd home run of the season to move within one of the Angels' Shohei Ohtani for the major league lead.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. and Danny Jansen also connected for the Blue Jays. Austin Hays hit a pair of homers for Baltimore and extended his career-high hitting streak to 17 games. Anthony Santander and Ryan Mountcastle also homered.

Rays 7, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Joey Wendle tripled and homered, 30-year-old Dietrich Enns won for the first time in the major leagues and Tampa Bay beat Detroit.

Kevin Kiermaier doubled and tripled to help the Rays end a two-game losing streak. Enns (1-0) struck out six in four hitless innings of relief, nine years after being drafted by the New York Yankees out of Central Michigan University.

Detroit's Miguel Cabrera picked up his 2,974th career hit with an RBI single in the fourth. Robbie Grossman homered for the Tigers. Casey Mize (7-8) was the loser.

Cardinals 6, Reds 4

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer in the eighth and had three RBIs and Paul DeJong had a solo shot to help St. Louis beat Cincinnati.

St. Louis has won three of four and gained a game on Cincinnati in the NL wild-card race. The Reds, who have lost four of six, started the day percentage points behind San Diego for the second spot.

Alex Reyes, who had been closing games for most of the season, pitched the eighth to earn the victory. Reyes (7-8) struck out one and walked one. Giovanny Gallegos picked up his seventh save.

Phillies 6, Rockies 1

In Philadelphia, Zack Wheeler steadied the slumping Phillies with eight strikeouts and Bryce Harper homered to lead Philadelphia past Colorado.

Odubel Herrera had a two-RBI bunt double and Jean Segura hit a solo homer to help the Phillies snap a four-game losing streak.

Wheeler (13-9) won his third straight start and tossed at least six innings in his 11th straight start. He left with the bases loaded and two outs in the seventh.

Pirates 10, Nationals 7

In Pittsburgh, Bryan Reynolds hit his 23rd home run of the season and drove in three runs in Pittsburgh's victory over Washington.

Reynolds hit a two-run shot to right-center field in the fifth and gave Pittsburgh the lead in the sixth when he worked a bases-loaded walk against Washington reliever Andres Machado. The walk was one of 10 issued by the struggling Nationals.

Ben Gamel hit his seventh home run—and first in more than two months—in the fifth.

Twins 9, Royals 2

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco hit two of Minnesota's five home runs, Michael Pineda pitched five strong innings in his return to the rotation and the Twins beat Kansas City.

Polanco had three hits in his third multi-homer game of the season. Byron Buxton homered for the second straight day, and Nick Gordon and Max Kepler also went deep for Minnesota, which has won five of seven.

Pineda (6-8) allowed one run on five hits. He was making his first start since returning from the injured list on Sept. 6 with a left oblique strain. He made his first career relief appearance on Sept. 6 before slotting back into the rotation.

Marlins 6, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Bryan De La Cruz and Jesús Sánchez hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth inning against Richard Rodríguez in Miami's victory over Atlanta.

De La Cruz, who went 3 for 4, broke a 3-all tie with a shot to left-center, before Sánchez went deep for the ninth time, a long drive to right, to make it 5-3.

Rodríguez (4-4) has allowed four homers in his last three innings. Anthony Bass (3-7) earned the win by pitching a scoreless seventh. Dylan Floro earned his 10th save in 15 chances after facing five batters in the ninth.

Angels 4, Astros 2

In Houston, Luis Rengifo homered with three RBIs to lead Los Angeles past Houston.

David Fletcher and Shohei Ohtani hit consecutive singles to start the game before Fletcher scored on a one-out double by Jared Walsh. The Angels made it 2-0 when Ohtani scored on a groundout by Rengifo.

Jo Adell opened the third with a single and Rengifo pushed the lead to 4-0 with his one-out homer to right field off Luis Garcia (10-7).

Diamondbacks 7, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Daulton Varsho homered and drove in four runs and Arizona beat Seattle to snap a six-game losing streak and deal a blow to the Mariners' wild-card hopes.

Varsho's two-run homer finished off a four-run fourth inning against starter Chris Flexen (11-6). Varsho added a two-run double in the sixth off Justus Sheffield, finishing 3 for 4 while batting ninth.

Arizona had lost 11 of 12 entering the game and snapped Seattle's two-game winning streak. The Mariners had a chance to move into the second of two AL wild-card spots when the day started, but lost ground to Toronto and New York.

Pierce, Bosh, and Russell (again) inducted into hoops Hall

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP SPORTS WRITER

The class of 2021 Basketball Hall of Fame stands together on stage, Saturday, Sept. 11, 2021, in Springfield, Mass. AP

Nine teams passed on Paul Pierce in the 1998 NBA draft, and if you think he doesn't remember each and every one of them, then you don't know Paul Pierce.

The newly inducted basketball Hall of Famer called out by name—in order—the teams with the first nine picks that year and thanked them for allowing him to slip to the Boston Celtics.

"I appreciate that. Thank you for passing on me. It added fuel to my fire," Pierce, who had been expected to go as high as No. 2 overall, said in his acceptance speech in Springfield, Massachusetts, on Saturday night. "To this day I don't understand how I slipped to No. 10. But you know everything happened for a reason. Going to the Celtics, I'm grateful."

Four months after the pandemic-delayed induction of the Class of 2020, including Kobe Bryant, the Hall community gathered to enshrine 16 more new members—its biggest class ever. Many in the crowd wore masks; three-time WNBA MVP Lauren Jackson wasn't able to attend because she was back in Australia in lockdown.

Bill Russell, who was inducted as a player in 1975, was honored for his coaching career; he is the fifth person to be inducted as both a player and a coach. But to former President Barack Obama his greatest role was what he accomplished off the court during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

"Bill Russell, perhaps more than anyone else, knows what it takes to win, and what it takes to lead," Obama said in a video. "As tall as Bill Russell stands, his example and his legacy rise far, far higher."

Others joining the Hall were: Villanova coach Jay Wright, defensive Pistons star Ben Wallace, two-time NBA champion Chris Bosh, longtime Portland and Sacramento coach Rick Adelman, Washington and Sacramento All-Star Chris Webber and two-time Olympic gold medalist Yolanda Griffith.

WNBA President Val Ackerman, longtime coach Cotton Fitzsimmons, scouting pioneer Howard Garfinkel were inducted as contributors. Clarence "Fats" Jenkins was picked by the Early African American Pioneers Committee, Croatia and Chicago Bulls star Toni Kukoc was tabbed by the International Committee, Bob Dandridge by the Veterans Committee and Pearl Moore from the Women's Veterans Committee.

Russell, 87, was honored as the first Black coach in NBA history. Taking over the Celtics from Red Auerbach in 1966 and staying on as a player-coach for two more years, Russell guided Boston to NBA titles in 1968 and '69.

Russell was present and wearing a Celtics mask at the ceremony, but his speech was presented as a prerecorded video.

"Hey, Chris Weber, we're going into the Hall of Fame with Bill Russell, bro," Chris Bosh said. "That's crazy."

Bosh discussed his arrival in Miami, when Heat executive Pat Riley offered one of his NBA championship rings and said it could be returned when they won one together; they won two, and Bosh finally returned the bauble on Saturday night.

And he discussed his departure, at the age of 31, when he was forced to retire because of blood clots.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	89	53	.627	–
Boston	81	63	.563	9
New York	79	63	.556	10
Toronto	79	63	.556	10
Baltimore	46	96	.324	43
Central Division				
Chicago	81	61	.570	–
Cleveland	69	71	.493	11
Detroit	67	76	.469	14½
Kansas City	64	78	.451	17
Minnesota	63	79	.444	18
West Division				
Houston	82	59	.582	–
Oakland	77	65	.542	5½
Seattle	77	65	.542	5½
Los Angeles	70	72	.493	12½
Texas	52	89	.369	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	75	66	.532	–
Philadelphia	72	70	.507	3½
New York	71	72	.497	5
Miami	60	82	.423	15½
Washington	58	84	.408	17½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	88	55	.615	–
Cincinnati	75	68	.524	13
St. Louis	72	69	.511	15
Chicago	65	78	.455	23
Pittsburgh	52	90	.366	35½
West Division				
San Francisco	92	50	.648	–
Los Angeles	90	53	.629	2½
San Diego	74	67	.525	17½
Colorado	65	78	.455	27½
Arizona	46	96	.324	46

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KURODA

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pack right at the beginning.

Christley, for her part, negotiated the 6-kilometer women's cross country route in 28:10. She was followed by Run Saipan vice president Jenna Kong in 29:45, while Tanuja Edvalson finished third in 29:57.

Christley, who is originally from Alaska, said she was surprised to have come up on top.

"It was a really fun race. The trail was perfect. The weather was perfect. It was just a really fun run. It didn't know my time at all. My watch stopped in the middle of the race. I don't really compete. I just kind of run for myself," she said.

Aside from being interviewed by media after the race, the 42-year-old said the hardest part of the race was when she had to literally summon the last ounces of her strength to finish the course.

"The toughest part of the race was right at the end of the trail. It really became humid. I was done and I wanted to stop. [Fortunately] I had a friend in front of me who took me to the finish line," she said.

In the 5K fun run, Ivan Li won the men's open division after crossing the finish line in 28:06. He was followed by Taiga Namai Scrogging in 29:18, while third place went to Peter White in 30:11.

In the women's open 5K division, Šarka Glajchova came in first in 28:40, followed by Jay Anne Felipe at 30:14 with Elizabeth Church completing the Top 3 in 30:50.

SIS headmaster Ron Snyder congratulated all the winners of the open cross country and the open fun run. Including the elementary, middle school, and high school division, a total of 348 registered to take part in the Gecko 5000, which marks the first time it included a cross country component that also served as a qualifier for the Northern Marianas Athletics and Public School System cross country series. Snyder is the distance running coach of NMA.

"I have 240 people with times. There were some that came but didn't go through the arch, just walked a shorter race or registered for the T-shirt only."

Snyder was glad that after a year's hiatus, SIS was finally able to host the Gecko 5000 but admitted that holding it during the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges.

"Hosting any event during the pandemic adds an extra layer of complexity. We had masks for anyone who needed them and we only had water bottles at the end instead of water jugs. We also had to split apart the divisions to increase the distance between the vaccinated older population and the younger athletes who are not eligible yet. Cross country has the big advantage over many other sports in that the runners are spread out over large distances and we are outside in the sun where the virus has a harder time surviving," he said.

Snyder also thanked the volunteers from the SIS faculty, SIS Rotary Interact Club, NMA, and Run Saipan and the event's sponsors, namely Cafe Hei, MARPAC, Casa de Song, Spicy Thai, Chung A, Smile Marianas, Chalan Pial Supermarket, JP World Corp., Brothers Clinic, Twins Market, JWS, Mango Six, Himawari Restaurant, Eun Song and Bori, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Ginen Saipan, The Water Company, and The Athletes Foot.

Result of the elementary, middle school, and high school divisions of the Gecko 5000 will published in tomorrow's issue of the *Saipan Tribune*.

NMIBF

From Page 20

"I would like to thank the basketball federation and its officials and our athletic program director, Mr. Nick Gross, for taking the lead on this basketball program and helping the PSS provide all CNMI students opportunities for sports development," Ada said.

This season's basketball competition will start with the girls middle school league on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Nine teams from both public and private schools will be playing in the regular season, while Tinian and Rota squads will join the field in the playoff round on Oct. 8. Regular season matches will be played every Wednesday and Friday, starting at 4:30pm.

Hopwood Middle School will have two teams and will be joined in the competition by Francisco M. Sablan, Dandan Middle School, Saipan Community School, Chacha Oceanview, Tanapag Middle School, Mt. Carmel School, and Grace Christian Academy.

"We are excited to start the interscholastic basketball season and see our students from elementary to high school showcase their skills and play for school pride. We also commend the PSS leadership for their commitment to keep basketball in their interscholastic program," Lee said.

"When the new NMIBF board was elected in April, one of our priorities is to strengthen our grassroots program through the interscholastic league. The league is the source of our talents, it's the future of our national team. We will continue to work with PSS and other stakeholders to provide our students more opportunities on and off the court through the sport of basketball," the NMIBF head added.

To prepare for the interscholastic league, the NMIBF has conducted basic referees and table official courses. Members of the NMI National Team Program attended the workshop and they will help run the girls middle school league. The NMIBF will continue to hold officiating clinics for other competitions in the league. The boys middle school league will be held in November, the high school event is slated in February, while the co-ed elementary will run in April. ***(PR)***

BILLIE

From Page 20

po beat Alvarez in the second heat to claim third place.

In the Peewee ATV, Brooklynn Susulin won with 50 points, followed by Ryan Borja and Skyler Togawa with 42 points apiece. Borja beat Togawa in the second heat to claim runner-up honors.

Ezekiel Camacho topped the Peewee I class with 50 points, followed by Kassidy Villagomez with 44 points. Joseph Santos Jr. (40 points) and Ramon Camacho (36 points) completed the Top 4.

Peewee II was won by Conan Iakopo with 50 points. He was followed by T.J. Ferrer with 44 points. Keenan Togawa and Elleayah Cruz finished third and fourth with 40 points and 36 points, respectively.

Theresa Borja lorded it over in the Mini ATV class with 50 points. She was followed by Franchesca Yumul and Jesus Santos with 40 points and 35 points, respectively. Kassidy Camachox (36 points) and Melvin Reyes (32 points) finished fourth and fifth.

In the Mini I class, Stanley Iakopo Jr. triumphed with his 50 points. Jonoah Santos (44 points), Rylie Manglona (40, points), and Harley Susulin (36 points) completed the Top 4.

Ethan Yumul was tops in the Mini II class with his 50 points followed by Stanley Iakopo II and Frankie Sablan with their 36 points and 32 points, respectively.

In the Veterans class, Champi Villacanes won with his 50 points with Melvin Cepeda and Glen Pangelinan landing in the Top 3 with 44 points and 38 points, respectively.

In the Novice Big Boy ATV, Mike Borja shown with 50 points with John "J.R." Brel coming in second with 44 points and David Camacho finishing third with 40 points.

Christian Camacho was the Big Kahuna in the Big Boy ATV with 50 points with Henry Camacho Sr. coming in second with 44 points and Rex Susulin taking third with 40 points.

Joseph Santos was the king of the Newbies class with 50 points followed by Etan Yumul (44 points) in second and Christian Camacho (38 points) in third.

The Novice class then saw Corry Pangelinan edge Tristan Sablan in the second heat to win the division. Both came away with 47 points. Gino Dela Cruz claimed third place with 40 points.

Pierce, Bosh, and Russell (again) inducted into hoops Hall

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Sports

Qualifier to champion: Britain's Raducanu, 18, wins US Open

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Kuroda, Christley top XC qualifier

From left, third place Chong Nam Lee, second place Edward Dela Cruz Jr., and first place Shuji Kuroda pose after last Saturday's cross country component of Saipan International School's Gecko 5000 in Marpi. LAO ZHANG

Audrey Christley poses with her first place medal after topping the 6-kilometer cross country race of Saipan International School's Gecko 5000 last Saturday in Marpi. MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Shuji Kuroda and Audrey Christley overcame the heat and humidity and the slalom-like conditions in the middle part to win the cross country category of Saipan International School's Gecko 5000 held last Saturday in Marpi.

Kuroda won the 8-kilometer men's cross country race after arriving at the finisher's arch in Banzai Cliff in 33:57. Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. was nearly 5 minutes off the Grandvrio Saipan Food & Beverage assistant manager's pace at 38:46, while Chong Nam Lee completed the Top 3 in 43:48.

Kuroda admitted that the cross country route almost got the better of him.

"I don't want to run anymore. Maybe I need a vacation. With the cross country my muscles were already getting tired unlike the flat course," said the 31-year-old from Tokyo who separated from the

See KURODA on Page 19

Billie finally tops Power Puff Girls class

Billie Pangelinan, seen here in a file photo, topped the Power Puff Girls class of Marianas Racing Association's Labor Day Race last Sept. 5 at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi. JOSEPH CHIN

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Billie Pangelinan finally took the checkered flag in the Power Puff Girls Class after topping division in Marianas Racing Association's Labor Day Race last Sept. 5 at the Cowtown Raceway Park in Marpi.

Pangelinan, who finished runner-up to Nanako Celis in the Monster Energy Drink MRA Point Series last season, came away with 50 points in the one-day race to finally gain bragging rights over her motocross rival.

Celis settled for the bridesmaid finish with 44 points, followed by Filomenaleonisa Iakopo and Shaniah Alvarez. The latter two finished with identical 38 points, but Iako-

See BILLIE on Page 19

NMIBF, PSS sign MOA for interscholastic basketball league

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation and CNMI Public School System have formalized their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Agreement for the 2021-2022 season of the interscholastic basketball competition.

Under the MOA, the NMIBF will be managing the interscholastic basketball league for PSS in all five divisions—co-ed elementary, girls and boys middle school, and girls and boys high school.

NMIBF president James Lee, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, and PSS athletic program director Nick Gross signed the MOA last month during a brief ceremony at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

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From left, Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation director Lia Rangamar, Public School System athletic program director Nick Gross, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada, and NMIBF president James Lee pose for a photo after the memorandum of agreement signing between the NMIBF and PSS for the 2021-2022 season of the interscholastic basketball competition. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO